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ARTICLE II.

HISTORY OF SCOTT COUNTY, IOWA.

BY WILLARD BARROWS, ESQUIRE, OF DAVENPORT.

LE CLAIRE TOWNSHIP.

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But while the people of Le Claire were thus busily engaged in building up a city, they did not forget in its earlier days, when their sun of prosperity looked dark, and uncertainty brooded over their undertakings, to turn their attention to schools and churches. Of the first little gatherings for prayer, or of the first sermon in some small cabin, where the little pioneer band first met, we know nothing, but the first building erected for that purpose was the brick Baptist Church, in the Summer of 1847. It was enclosed that Autumn, and a small room in the basement finished off, so that it could be occupied by the District School during the six days, and on the Sabbath for divine service. This room, measuring about sixteen by twenty feet, continued to be the headquarters of the grammar school and the ballot-box for some five years. Upon election days, the school was "let out" to accommodate the "officials," in the "weightier matters of the law." In 1849, the church being still weak in numbers and poor, entered into an agreement with the Congregational Church to make the building

answer for both congregations. The main edifice was to be finished, the original owners were to lath it, and the Congregationalists were to plaster it, and for so doing the latter were to have the use of it free on alternate Sabbaths, for four years. In consequence, however, of delay on the part of the Baptist brethren, in performing their contract, the church was not plastered until the Spring of 1850, and the slips or pews were not put in until Autumn. During this Summer (1850), the audiences of the respective churches had to sit on seats constructed by laying rough joists on equally rough blocks—seats of the most rude and primitive kind. But it appears that the immigration into the flourishing village of Le Claire that Summer was so great, houses could not be found to contain them, and a family occupied one end of the church as a residence—having a calico curtain separating kitchen, dining-room and parlor from the sanctuary. The Rev. W. Rutledge was pastor of the Baptist, and Rev. H. W. Cobb the stated supply of the Congregational Church, which occupied the edifice until the completion and dedication of their neat little church on the 22d of December, 1853.

The old Methodist Church was built in the Autumn of 1848, and was used in its unfinished state during the following Winter, being used also, one end of it, as a carpenter's shop, the bench and tools crowded into one corner, on the Sabbath. This building is yet standing, and is rented for a District School. The first resident Methodist minister in Le Claire, was the Rev. Joel B. Taylor. He was the first to occupy the parsonage, erected the same Autumn, of the church. A new Methodist Church edifice was commenced in 1856, and completed and dedicated in August, 1857.

The old Presbyterian Church was built, we believe, in 1850, at a cost of five hundred dollars. In 1855 it was sold to the School District and converted into a school house. In the Summer of that year, Mr. T. H. Longbottom entered into a contract to erect a new church, which he completed, the following season, at a total cost of four thousand one

hundred and eighty dollars. The dedication services were held on the 15th of September, 1856. This building was destroyed by fire on the 2d of June, 1859, supposed to be the work of an incendiary.

The Congregational Church was organized in 1849. Rev. H. W. Cobb was stated supply from June, 1850, to December, 1851, and the Rev. L. R. White from that date to June 1st, 1854. The church edifice was erected in 1853, at a cost of one thousand and sixty dollars, labor and material at that time being very cheap.

There are Catholic, United Presbyterian and Disciples' Churches in the city, the statistics of which I am unable to give.

The "Bratton House" was commenced in the Summer of 1854, finished the following season, and opened by H. E. and D. B. Brown, in October, 1855.

A Boat Yard, called the Marine Railway, was commenced in March, 1856, and the first boat was "hailed out," the 18th September of the same year.

CHAPTER VII.

PRINCETON TOWNSHIP.

1835.—The first permanent claimants to land in this Township were Giles M. and Haswell H. Pinneo, who made their claims in the Autumn of 1835, and moved on to them as permanent settlers in the Spring of 1836. George W. Harlan had made some claims on speculation even before this, but made no real settlement. Giles M. Pinneo settled where he now lives, and Haswell H. took his claim where a part of the city of Princeton now stands. Many of the "old settlers" will remember his neat hewed log cabin and the comforts it often afforded to those who came beneath its roof. He died many years since, much respected by all who knew him.

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