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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

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### RECOLLECTIONS OF A NATIONAL CONVENTION

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The year of a presidential election seems especially appropriate for printing the dignified article about the Republican National convention of 1884 written by Senator A. B. Funk, of Spirit Lake, elsewhere in this number. When he returned from a winter in California a few days before his death, May 3, 1940, he brought the manuscript, which had been prepared partly upon the urging of the curator of the Department, especially for publication in the *Annals*. At that time there survived two of the Iowa delegation to that convention which had nominated James G. Blaine for president. The other was Judge James W. Willett, of Tama county, who passed away just ten days later over ninety-four years of age. At the head of the Iowa delegation was James S. Clarkson, "distinguished editor of the *Iowa State Register*, a consistent and useful advocate of the election of Senator Blaine, and a member of the national committee.

It is probable that but for his sudden death, Senator Funk would have added some personal reminiscences of the Iowa delegation; but in the article we now publish he has recalled the main features of one of the great national conventions that he well calls of historic significance.

Senator Funk and Judge Willett were certainly among the oldest survivors of the convention, and a hasty glance at the delegation list fails to show any other who lived into the present era other than Senator Lynch of Mississippi. The notable figures of the convention long ago passed off the stage.

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### STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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To succeed the late Professor Benjamin F. Shambaugh as head of the State Historical Society of Iowa, the board of curators of that society announced June 26, 1940, the appointment of Miss Ethyl Martin as Superintendent, and Professor

John E. Briggs as editor of the society's publications. These appointments, effective July 1, divide the work of Professor Shambaugh who held both positions.

Miss Martin, who as superintendent will handle the administrative and financial affairs of the society, served for over thirty years as secretary to Dr. Shambaugh, and the last ten years as assistant superintendent. Professor Briggs, of the Political Science Department since 1917, has been associated with the society since 1913. Since 1922 he has been editor of the society's monthly publication, the Palimpsest. He will have charge of the editorial work connected with the various publications of the society.

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