

etc. Quite recently the city council have authorized a local taxidermist to collect and mount the birds of Boone county for the Library. This work which is most commendable has just been commenced. Boone county abounds in prehistoric stone implements, and these are being gathered in. Everything indicates that Mr. Brainard will in a few years not only collect the local history and biography of that county, but also build up an interesting local museum.

DENMARK ACADEMY.

Our leading article presents a history of the quiet and secluded little village of Denmark, Lee county, Iowa, and of the celebrated institution of learning which has flourished there with undiminished success since 1845. This history is a pleasant and instructive one to read, for it depicts the wisdom which underlaid this most commendable enterprise at the start and portrays the tenacity with which its pious founders and supporters have pursued their labors for sixty years. Few schools of this grade have made so proud a record, whether we look to the distinguished names which appear in its list of graduates, the high grade of its scholarship, the patriotism which inspired its young men to enlist in the Union armies in the civil war, or the liberality of those who gave their time and money to its development and support.

This article was prepared by Mrs. H. B. Quinton, who has resided in Denmark for many years, at the request of the Alumni Society of the Academy. She wished it also to be understood that she has drawn for her facts quite freely upon the late Rev. Dr. George F. Magoun's "Asa Turner and his Times"—a book well known to the Congregationalists of Iowa—and sundry manuscripts furnished her by Prof. H. K. Edson of Grinnell.

Prof. Frank Leverett, who was born in that town in

1854, graduating there and at the Iowa Agricultural College, and who has become one of the foremost writers upon the glaciers of this country, in a letter to the Editor of THE ANNALS, says of Denmark Academy:

I hardly know what I could say that would be worth inserting concerning the Academy as I knew it. I am keeping track of its work right along, and know that it is maintaining and in some ways improving its standard. There are more persons going to college from it now than in the days when it had an attendance much greater than the present, which shows pretty clearly that it is not deteriorating. There is in such a school an atmosphere of culture which is rare in the public school and which tends toward good citizenship. I wish our public schools had more of it.

THE COMMISSION OF GOVERNOR LUCAS.

The original document is in the possession of the State Historical Society at Iowa City. Gen. Robert Lucas was appointed first governor of Iowa Territory by President Van Buren. The commission bears the date of July 7, 1838. This precious document has suffered very much from the lapse of time and possibly from lack of care during earlier years of its existence. Wherever blanks were filled with pen-writing the ink has become much faded. In some instances even the printed lines are so worn that it is quite difficult to trace them. It was kindly loaned to the Historical Department for the purpose of enabling it to be reproduced in these pages. The result is shown in the facsimile which we print in this number. While the work is in some respects faulty it is certainly as good as can be produced without a better copy, which at this time is wholly out of the question. It shows as nearly as practicable what the commission was at the date of its issuance. We have made every possible effort to recover the commissions of Governors Chambers and Clarke, but up to this time without success. It is extremely doubtful whether either of them is in existence, and a matter of regret that they have not been preserved.

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