

COL. THOMAS COX—HARVEY REID.

Our leading article presents an interesting sketch of the life and public services of Col. Thomas Cox, who was a conspicuous personage in the political affairs of Iowa Territory. It is from the ready pen of Mr. Harvey Reid, of Maquoketa, who is demonstrating that he possesses rare capacity as an original investigator of historical subjects. When he undertook to learn something concerning Col. Cox, the sources of information were practically hidden from view. His subject had resided in Illinois when it was a territory, and had migrated to Iowa early enough to be elected to a seat in its first territorial house of representatives. He had served with credit in several military organizations and had borne an honorable and most efficient part in ridding Jackson county of a banditti which threatened the property and lives of its citizens who were peacefully inclined. In this last affair he showed his admirable qualities as a soldier, for it was necessary to organize the equivalent of a military command to capture and punish the banditti. The "war" in Jackson county was one of the most interesting and thrilling episodes in our early history. It will now be understood by those who read this sketch of Col. Cox. Mr. Reid admirably presents these facts which have caused him a world of trouble to unearth, showing that Col. Cox was a hero in both his public and private life, and a leading and useful pioneer whose memory should be gratefully cherished in Iowa. He has also succeeded in acquiring much other historical information, from hitherto hidden sources, which will be given to the public hereafter.

NEW PORTRAITS.

There have recently been placed in the Art Gallery of the Historical Department oil portraits of three representative pioneer journalists of this State—Hon. John D. Hunter, Hon. W. W. Junkin and Hon. Matt Parrott. Mr. Hunter

is still living in Webster City, Iowa, though he is a stricken invalid, whose recovery from a painful disease is doubtless out of the question." In addition to his newspaper work he served his county two terms in the Iowa House of Representatives, where he was the author of a bill foreshadowing the later enactment providing for the present board of control of State institutions. Messrs. Junkin and Parrott are dead. Mr. Junkin resided for quite fifty years in Fairfield, where he was one of the founders of *The Ledger* of that city, and one of the most efficient promoters of its public library. Mr. Parrott, in addition to founding *The Waterloo Reporter*, was a conspicuous and highly useful man in public life. He served two terms as State Binder, a four years' term in the Senate, and as Lieutenant Governor, narrowly missing a nomination for the Governorship of the State.

These are excellent portraits of pioneer Iowans who were well known and influential in their several fields of usefulness.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Rending of Virginia, A History, by Granville Davisson Hall. Glencoe, Ill., 1902, pp. 622.

This is a thorough representation and elucidation of one of the most unique and important events in American history, the organization of the State of West Virginia and its separation from the original State of Virginia. The time was critical. Making West Virginia free was of the same momentous consequences as making Kansas free. The preservation of the Union depended upon both. They were the beginning of the end of slavery. The author, a native of West Virginia, bore a strenuous part in the work. He gives a full and accurate history of the acts and proceedings by which, when the "Old Dominion" lapsed from the Union, another star arose in our national firmament. Speaking of Virginia under the slave regime, he says: "The breeding of negroes was more lucrative than breeding of cattle, or raising tobacco, and not so exhaustive of the soil. There was a good deal of cross-breeding, and a large percentage of the human stock shipped to the Gulf States bore the best blood of the F. F. V." p. 49.

Poccalito, A Tale of Telegraph Hill, by Eugenie Kellogg. San Francisco, Cal., 1903, pp. 130.

The story of a little Italian child, whose father got his living upon the fishing-grounds about the City of the Golden Gate, is here told in an inter-

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