

might well detain the tourist and the scientific explorer for a month. Congress, during its last session, wisely devoted this nook of the mountains to a public park. Avarice will, therefore, never be able to control it for private benefit.

It is understood that the Northern Pacific Railway will run within fifty or sixty miles of this park, and, probably, by the summer of 1874 or '75, the people of the whole country will have an opportunity to visit this new and curious region. Five years ago, who would have supposed that the mystery of the Colorado would now be solved, and the most wonderful geyser district in the world would have been discovered on the head-waters of the Missouri?

EDITORIAL NOTES.

— THE words of the "Star Spangled Banner," it is well known, were written by Francis Scott Key, a young lawyer of Baltimore, in September, 1814, but the authorship of the accompanying music is not known. The antiquarian authorities say the tune was taken from an old English song, entitled "To Anacreon in Heaven," but the authorship of both the words and music of this seem to be forgotten past recall. The words of "Hail Columbia" were written in 1798, by Joseph Hopkinson, of Philadelphia. Its tune was likewise borrowed, or stolen, from "The President's March," the music of which was composed by Prof. Phyla, of Philadelphia. The words of the National Ode beginning "My Country, tis of thee," were written by Rev. Dr. Samuel Francis Smith, and the music also captured, from the British national anthem "God Save the King."

— THE Illinois Institution for the Education of Feeble-Minded Children has lately made its eighth annual report. This public charity was organized in 1865. It is under the able superintendency of C. T. Wilbur, M. D., assisted by a matron, a clerk, and four lady teachers, and contains at present eighty-two pupils. This number is all that can be accommodated at present, for lack of room, but forms but a very small minority of this sadly unfortunate class in Illinois, as the census of 1870 returned one thousand seven hundred and thirty-eight persons in that state as idiotic, a number exceeding her insane population. Of course, the state of Illinois contains no greater proportion of idiots to her total

population than Iowa, and yet, with all our boasted advance in all charitable and educational works and institutions, our legislatures and people seem strangely to have entirely overlooked and ignored this helplessly stricken class. It is openly declared, and generally admitted, that Penitentiary No. 2, begun to be built at Anamosa, is absolutely not needed. Why not convert that building, when completed, to the benign uses of a school for the feeble-minded children of Iowa, many of whom are languishing in poor-houses, or imprisoned in jails? What grander monument could any of our statesmen ask than could be hewn from the Anamosa quarries in the form and semblance of a great educational edifice for the feeble-minded children of the state? Its inmates, with all the advantages it could afford them, might often remain too imbecile to hurrah much for their champions at election, but the incense of childish prayers and praises that would nightly ascend to heaven from it might, for the politician who secured its erection, have a salutary influence at the resurrection.

—THE January number for 1872 of the ANNALS OF IOWA has been sent to Mr. Steiger, of New York, the Agent of the United States Commissioner, to form an integral part of the Vienna Exposition. The number mentioned was selected because of its containing a fine engraving, the portrait of the Hon. Philip Viele, of Fort Madison.

—THE Historical and Genealogical Register, the organ of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, has just completed its twenty-sixth volume. It is a large quarterly, devoted to American Biography, Genealogy, Heraldry, etc. John Ward Dean, 18 Somerset street, Boston receives subscriptions for it.

—THE tenth volume of the "Memoirs of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania," a book of seven hundred and fifty pages, has lately been issued. It is embellished with a finely engraved likeness of James Logan, Secretary of the "Province of Pennsylvania" at the beginning of the last century, and the contents are composed chiefly of correspondence between him and William Penn. It comprehends seven years in the history of the "Province," from the beginning of 1705 to the close of 1711.

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