

identify it. So eager were the settlers, who had previously remained only at the suffrance of the general government, to have permanent homes near the fort, that during the fore part of the night preceding October 11th men were stationed in all directions around, with instructions to immediately begin the measurement of claims as soon as midnight arrived.

“Precisely at twelve o'clock, the loud report of a musket fired from the agency house announced that the empire of the red man ended here forever, and that of his master race begun. Answering reports rang sharply on the night air, in quick succession from every hill-top, and in every valley, till the signal was conveyed for miles around, and all understood that civilization had now commenced her reign in central Iowa. The moon was slowly sinking in the west, and its beams afforded a feeble and uncertain light for the measuring of claims, in which so many were engaged. Ere long the landscape was shrouded in darkness, save the wild and fitful glaring of torches carried by the claim-makers. Before the night had entirely worn away, the rough surveys were finished, and the Indian lands had found new tenants. Throughout the country thousands of acres were laid off in claims before dawn. Settlers rushed in by hundreds, and the region lately so tranquil and silent felt the impulse of the change, and became vocal with the sounds of industry and enterprise.”

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A MOOTED POINT IN BLACK AND WHITE.

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COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA, July 28, 1873.

*To the Secretary of the Historical Society of Iowa: —*

DEAR SIR: — Enclosed please find a document which may be of some interest to the readers of your transactions. You will see from it that it is a proposition to raise

colored troops for the rebel army,— a proposition suddenly nipped in the bud by the collapse of the rebellion itself. The history of the paper is this, as far as I can ascertain: The 61st Alabama regiment were on duty in the rebel trenches in front of Petersburg, a short distance west of the point where the Weldon railroad crossed their trenches. They were employed in supporting a Virginia battery. During the battle of Sunday and Sunday night, April 2, 1865, one of their caissons was exploded by a shell from our batteries. When we stormed their works, and entered them, I saw a bundle of papers in a pool of blood, and supposing they might contain valuable information picked them up, and in the package found the document which I enclose to you. You will notice that it is still considerably stained. Where I have made the ink-mark, "X," is the blood-stain—the others are from wet yellow clay.

Yours, respectfully,

JNO. H. KEATLEY,  
*Late Lieut. Col. 54th Bat. Pa. Vols.*

The following is the document:—

"CAMP 61ST ALABAMA REGIMENT, }  
"March 31st, 1865. }

"GENERAL:— We have the honor to request of you authority to raise ten companies of colored troops in the vicinity of Montgomery, Alabama. We feel confident that this can be done, with the help of influential friends, both of us having many in and around the city.

"We are, General, very respectfully,

"Your obedient servants,

"THOMAS T. GREENE,

"*First Lieut. and Adjt. 61st Ala. Regt. Inf.*

"DE WITT DILLARD,

"*First Lieut. Co. A, 61st Ala. Regt. Inf.*

"To GEN. S. COOPER, A. and I. General."

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