

to me at Washington your paper.* Whatever relates to Kentucky will be peculiarly interesting to me; and you will be so obliging as to transmit to me your paper commencing with those of the two last weeks from this time.

I have thus far advanced on my journey, amidst bad weather and wretched roads, tho' I confess I have found them better than I expected. I still indulge the hope of dining on oysters at the — city on Xmas day.

Very respectfully,

HENRY CLAY.

JOHN GRIMSLEY'S EFFORT TO SAVE THE LIFE OF A SQUAW.

MARCH 20 1839.

IOWA TERRITORY WASHINGTON COUNTY.

Sir, there is at this time a female of the Sioux nation of Indians, now a prisoner in the hands of the Sac and Fox Indians, lately taken by them, according to their own account.

I heard it two or three days ago, and that last friday she was to be put to death, but they have declined killing her. Yesterday myself and three or four others went to the camp of the chief of the indians that are on Skunk River. The name of the chief is Mac-col-wa. He showed us some articles that they say they took from her, and that she was ten miles from his camp, and that he should start late in the evening to [go] after her. He told me they would not kill her; saying she was good to rais corn. I wished to know if they would sell her, he said he would take seven good horses for her.

They say they caught another female the same time, and cut her throate.

They say she cries much, which appears to be sport for them, and I have been informed that they say their females dance around her. I have not where with to purchase her. All I can do is to ac in such a manner as will not be prejudicial to her, and to ascertain the least they will take for her. I hope these lines will reach you as soon as posable, that her nation by your assistance may redeem her from savage and unfeeling masters. If you or the indians should wish me to ac in anyother way for her benefit write to me on the subject, and I will do all in my power for the cause of humanity.

If you should write to me direct your letter to Mount Pleasant Henry County.

JOHN GRIMSLEY.

The Agent of the Sioux Indians.

LETTERS OF OUR TERRITORIAL GOVERNORS.

Reasoning from analogous cases the writer had long been of the opinion that one or more of the Executive Departments at Washington contained many letters by our three Terri-

*The paper referred to was *The Western World* published at Frankfort, Ky., by Wood & Street.

torial Governors—Robert Lucas, John Chambers and James Clarke. That they must have written scores, if not hundreds of letters to the authorities at Washington, was to be presumed as a matter of course. But it was not their habit to keep letter-books or copies of their letters. If they ever varied from this course their records have either been lost or destroyed. The frequent removals of the capital had not been conducive to the preservation of documents possessing no immediate public interest. At all events, no one in Iowa seemed to have any knowledge of the existence of such letters. As those good governors were also ex-officio superintendents of Indian Affairs within the Territory, their correspondence must have referred to a large extent to the Indians. Upon all questions affecting the Territory there has been a demand for information which could best be obtained from official correspondence. Some little persistence was finally rewarded by locating eighty-six of these letters in the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. They were no longer of any earthly value in the dust-heap where they had lain undisturbed for more than half a century, but how to get them was the important question. In some of the divisions of the departments there have been occasional house-cleanings, in which piles of letters and other papers have been burned or otherwise destroyed. (From one of these holocausts a gentleman of our acquaintance rescued valuable original letters by Commodores Perry, Decatur, Hull, Bainbridge, and other naval heroes of the war of 1812.) Destruction, therefore, might overtake them some day. It was soon learned, however, that these letters could only be secured for the State of Iowa by an act or resolution of Congress. The late Senator John H. Gear started an effort to obtain them, but this failed when he died. It was recommenced by his successor, Hon. J. P. Dolliver, through whose efforts the resolution easily went through the Senate. In the House it was looked after by Hon. John F. Lacey. It was also passed by that body and was at once approved by the President. It reads as follows:

[PUBLIC RESOLUTION—NO. 9.]

Joint Resolution Authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to remove from the files of the Department of the Interior certain letters to be donated to the State of Iowa.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and is hereby, authorized to remove from the files of the Department and donate to the State of Iowa such letters of Robert Lucas, John Chambers, and James Clarke, addressed to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, as may be designated by the Curator of the Historical Department of said State, copies being retained in the files of the Department of the Interior if the Secretary shall deem such letters or any of them of any value to the government.

Approved, February 28, 1901.

These letters which are now only important to the State of Iowa, on account of their historical value, and as mementos of our Territorial Governors, will doubtless reach the Historical Department at an early day. It is by no means improbable that other important letters and documents relating to early Iowa may be brought to light in the government offices at Washington, though it will be a work of time and patience to find them.

EARLY IOWA BANKING.

Our leading article is a most readable account of the beginning of banking operations in Iowa, by Maj. Hoyt Sherman of Des Moines. He was himself a pioneer in this department of business, a keen observer, and a man of affairs, who speaks with accurate knowledge of the situation at the beginning and of the progress of events as the State increased in population and wealth and the demands for a circulating medium constantly increased. This article is not only excellent reading at the present time, but it possesses great historical value. In the next ANNALS we shall publish a second paper from his pen on "The State Bank of Iowa." Our readers may look for a clear and succinct account of that institution, now almost forgotten, but which gave Iowa as proud a position financially as that of any State in the Union at any time. It is especially valuable as embodying the recollections of one of the most active of the founders of the old State Bank.

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