

ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

THE INDIAN CHIEF POWESHIEK.

McKenney and Hall, in their "Indian Tribes of North America," present a portrait of this "celebrated brave of the Musquakie or Fox nation," from which our engraving was made, but their biographical memoranda is very brief. They say that he was a "daring warrior, and held a respectable standing in council, as a man of prudence and capacity," but add that "nothing very striking in his history has reached us." These authors spell the name "Powasheek," explaining that it signifies "To wash the water off."

The late Judge A. R. Fulton, however, in his "Red Men of Iowa," writes more at length of this noted Indian, whose name was given to one of our richest inland counties, quoting freely from the late Col. S. C. Trowbridge of Iowa City, "who knew him personally." He spells his name "Poweshiek," stating that it signifies "The Roused Bear." Judge Fulton devotes three pages to such biographical details as were familiar to Col. Trowbridge, which are undoubtedly correct. From 1843 to 1845 Poweshiek made his home in the vicinity of the present city of Des Moines. He removed south with his people in the latter year, stopping awhile in Missouri, but later settled in Kansas. The date of his death is unknown.

TWO HISTORIC PORTRAITS.

Since issuing the last ANNALS the Historical Department has received oil portraits of James Harlan, the illustrious Senator, and Francis Springer, the distinguished jurist who

is so well remembered as president of the Iowa Constitutional Convention of 1857. The portrait of Mr. Harlan was purchased by the legislature from Mrs. N. C. Deering, of Osage. It was painted in the later sixties or early seventies by Constantino Brumidi, a famous Greek-Italian artist, who did not live to complete the frescos which he projected in the rotunda of the National Capitol at Washington. In Mr. Deering's earlier residence in the federal city, while he was serving as a clerk in one of the departments, he volunteered to assist Mr. Harlan as an amanuensis. That was in the era of old-fashioned economy, before the days of private secretaries and multiplied clerkships. For this work, which continued some months, Mr. Deering declined to receive any compensation. Mr. Harlan, however, made Mr. and Mrs. Deering a present of a sum of money to which they decided to add sufficient to secure this portrait. Afterwards, Mr. Deering was elected a member of the U. S. House of Representatives, where he served three terms. His death occurred several years ago, since which time this portrait has remained in the family residence at Osage. At the request of the writer, Mrs. Deering sent it the Historical Art Gallery, where it had been hanging by that of his great colleague, J. W. Grimes. The subject was brought to the attention of the legislature, when a concurrent resolution was adopted, providing for a joint committee to consider the matter of its purchase. The committee reported in favor of purchasing the portrait, at a cost of \$1,000. This report was adopted by both houses and the sum was accepted by Mrs. Deering. The portrait is an excellent likeness of Mr. Harlan as he appeared while in the U. S. Senate. With the exception of James W. McDill, Jesse B. Howell and Jonathan P. Dolliver, the State now owns oil portraits of our U. S. Senators, and for the most part they are excellent paintings.

The portrait of Judge Francis Springer was painted by Louis Mayer, a well known artist of Milwaukee, Wis. It was received with the following letter, which explains itself:

DES MOINES, May 7, 1902.

HON. CHARLES ALDRICH, Curator Historical Department of Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa:

Dear Sir: The children of Francis Springer have thought that they could in no way better honor his name, nor serve the State more acceptably, than by offering his portrait to its Historical Department, to be placed among those of the men with whom he was associated for more than half a century, in the building of this great State. The fact of having been thus associated in so grand a work was accounted by him the highest honor of his declining years. The portrait, of which we herewith beg acceptance for the State, was painted by Louis Mayer, of Milwaukee. It will be formally presented on our behalf by our father's oldest surviving friend, the venerable pastor, Dr. William Salter, who since the State began, has ministered to the joys and sorrows of her people, and whose voice has been heard, in words of comfort, at the stricken firesides of so many who helped to make her history what it is. May his grand old age be bright with the knowledge that all Iowa claims him as a friend, and that young and old alike love, honor and revere him.

With great respect, we are, faithfully yours,

FRANK SPRINGER, Las Vegas, N. M.

ARTHUR SPRINGER, Wapello, Iowa.

CHARLES SPRINGER, Springer, N. M.

NELLIE SPRINGER LETTS, Columbus Junction, Ia.

On the above date, and on behalf of the children of Francis Springer, in the Iowa Historical Art Gallery, this portrait was presented by the Rev. Dr. William Salter, of Burlington. For this occasion it had been hung on the north wall, and draped with the beautiful American flag which floated over the National House of Representatives on the occasion of the memorial services in honor of the late President McKinley. Dr. Salter gave his hearers an interesting sketch of the life of Francis Springer, with a judicial estimate of his worth as a man and of his valuable services to the State. It was noticed that the veteran clergyman, now in his 81st year, read his neat and beautiful manuscript without the aid of glasses. This manuscript is now in the Historical Department, and is to be placed in a fine binding and preserved as a precious souvenir of an interesting historical event. At the conclusion of his address, the knot was loosened by Mrs. Nellie Springer Letts, daughter of the statesman, and the flag gracefully descended, unveil-

ing the splendid portrait. On behalf of the State, in an eloquent address, this gift was appropriately accepted by Governor Albert B. Cummins, who also to some extent reviewed his distinguished career. The closest attention was given to the speakers by the audience. The hall was well filled and the assemblage was presided over by Hon. P. M. Casady, a State Senator of 1848-50, who left his impress upon those times by reporting and securing the passage of a bill which prescribed the geographical limits and provided names for fifty of the counties in the western half of Iowa. Judge Springer's autobiography was printed in *THE ANNALS*, Vol. II, 3d series, pp. 569-85, and his name will be found in the indexes of all the volumes. The reception of this excellent portrait thus rounds out the efforts of relatives, appreciative friends, and the State, to keep green the memory of the illustrious pioneer.

A LIFE OF THEODORE S. PARVIN.

Shortly after the death of this distinguished pioneer, the subject of writing his biography was discussed to some extent, but mainly, as we suppose, in Masonic circles. While his life was so largely devoted to Masonry, he was yet a large factor in the early history of the Territory and State, as well as in its educational development in later years. Few long lives are so completely devoted to the public service and the public welfare. And now that some time has elapsed since he went to his grave, full of years and honors, those who knew him intimately can form a fair judgment as to the value of the story of his life. In these times the rush of events soon covers every grave with the mantle of oblivion, but wherever we have heard the subject discussed, an earnest desire is invariably expressed that the story of Parvin's life shall be told, for the benefit of future generations, and the preservation of much valuable history. Primarily, this task should be undertaken under the auspices of the Masonic

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