

identified. He carried it with him through the war and kept it in his home until last year when he sent it with other belongings to the Historical Department in the custody of which he wished it to remain.

The next is one of four flags used at the unveiling of the Lafayette Monument in Paris, July 4, 1900. It was presented by Hon. J. S. Crawford, a former representative in the State legislature from Cass county, who was present at the unveiling of the monument. He presented it to the Historical Department some months ago.

The most noted of the three flags is doubtless that which waved over the U. S. House of Representatives during the Memorial Services in honor of President McKinley Feb. 27, 1902. After the two hours in which it was unfurled, it was hauled down and sent by Speaker David B. Henderson to the Historical Department, as a gift to the people of Iowa. It is a most beautiful flag, twelve feet long by eight in width. It was used to drape the portrait of the late Honorable Francis Springer upon the occasion of its public reception in the Historical Art Gallery, and was also unfurled during the late Grand Army Encampment and during the sessions of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the World. These flags will only be used at rare intervals, and upon occasions of historic interest.

CONCERNING GOVERNOR CHAMBERS.

Many of our readers will doubtless remember a biographical sketch of John Chambers, our second territorial governor, which was written by Hon. William Penn Clarke, reporter of the supreme court of Iowa from 1855 to 1860. This sketch appeared in *THE ANNALS*, Vol. I, No. 6, (July, 1894,) pp. 425-445. Some time after the article appeared we received the following letter from John Chambers, a grandson of the governor. The letter, which fully explains itself, was mislaid at the time it was received, and only came to light a

short time ago. Its publication at this time, however, will serve the purpose of the writer in the correction of the historical error:

402 W. ORMSBY AVE., LOUISVILLE, KY., November 27, 1894.

MY DEAR SIR:—After an absence from the city for several months, I returned some time ago, finding waiting for me a copy of the July issue of THE ANNALS OF IOWA, containing the sketch of the life of my grandfather, John Chambers. For this I am greatly obliged to you. I would like to call your attention to one error in the sketch by Mr. Clarke, viz: that of imputing to my grandfather the authorship of the letter given on page 443, dated at Hudson City. This letter could never have been written by him, for several reasons. It refers to his wife as being still alive, when in fact his second and last wife died in Kentucky in 1832. Again, it speaks of a son "Lewis," and of "May" (probably a daughter), neither of which names has been used in our family as long ago as we have any record. From the tone of this letter, I should be inclined to think that it was written by another John Chambers, probably of no kin, who must have been a physician, or possibly a minister of the gospel, attending to his parochial duties. . . . Could you inform me where the original of the picture following page 432 was obtained? I am very anxious to know this, as none of the family here has any recollection of ever having seen it before.

Yours very truly,

JOHN CHAMBERS.

It would seem that Mr. Clarke was in error in attributing the authorship of that letter—the original of which cannot now be found—to Governor Chambers. While the letter of itself possesses no significance, it is proper that the matter be set right. As to the portrait (facing page 432) it occurred in a list of steel plates owned by a New York dealer, from whom we obtained 1,000 impressions to illustrate Mr. Clarke's article. Our attention had been called to this portrait by the late Hon. Theodore S. Parvin, who believed it to be authentic. There is however, quite a dissimilarity between the engraved signatures under each portrait and between the portraits themselves. The portrait of Governor Chambers, in his old age (facing page 441), was engraved from the original oil painting by George H. Yewell, which is one of the finest works of art in the ownership of the State.

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