

the basement story of the capitol, on the morning of July 1, 1892, without as yet a chair or other piece of furniture, he was one of three men who passed in to survey the vacant rooms. Since that time he has been a valued contributor to this work.

As we are closing these pages we learn also with regret that another beloved pioneer citizen, the Honorable A. B. F. Hildreth, of Charles City, has removed to Boston, Mass., where he is likely to spend his remaining days. He also is an octogenarian. Mr. Hildreth was the pioneer journalist of Charles City, having founded his paper, *The Intelligencer*, at that place in 1856. He is the oldest living Iowa journalist in all that part of the State north of Des Moines. In the old days that was the finest looking weekly paper in Iowa. It was edited with taste and ability and on the right side of all questions of education and morals. Mr. Hildreth served on the State Board of Education in 1858-'62, and in the house of representatives of the 10th general assembly. He introduced in the Board of Education the subject of the co-education of the sexes in the State University, and advocated it ably and persistently until it became the law of the State. He was an exception to country editors of his time, from the fact that he acquired a handsome fortune. Among the treasures of the Historical Department of Iowa are a complete file of *The Charles City Intelligencer*, from the first number until it passed out of Mr. Hildreth's hands, and his portrait from the easel of Charles A. Cumming.

In thus recording the departure from our State of these esteemed pioneer citizens the writer takes occasion to express the hope that they may still be spared many happy years. They will live in the memory of our people as among the most esteemed of the makers of Iowa.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A LETTER FROM DR. CHARLES A. WHITE.

DEAR MR. ALDRICH: The compositor who set up my biographical sketch of Dr. W. H. Barris, in the last (October) number of *THE ANNALS* made me say, on page 219, second line from the bottom, that the good doctor was endowed by nature with a most "congenial" spirit, an error of syntax that I did not commit, as I there wrote "genial." I plead guilty, however, to having failed to detect that error when I read the proof, an oversight that is all the more grave because, in the case of my contributions to *THE ANNALS*, you have seldom, if ever, deemed it necessary to exercise your accustomed searching editorial revision of the final proofs.

In this connection it may be well to refer to another typographical error in the same issue of *THE ANNALS*, which occurs in the bottom line of page 225. It is there stated that Judge Charles Mason "settled in Burlington, Iowa, then in Michigan territory, in 1837." The error is apparent when it is remembered that the region which is now the State of Iowa was trans-

ferred from the jurisdiction of Michigan territory to that of Wisconsin territory in 1836, and that it became Iowa territory in 1838. Burlington was, therefore, in Wisconsin territory when Judge Mason settled there.

The occurrence of minor errors like these seems to be inevitable, even with the greatest vigilance; but while it is desirable to correct them, they cannot seriously impair the great and increasing value which all readers recognize in *THE ANNALS* under your rehabilitation and editorial management.

CHARLES A. WHITE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 15, 1901.

ANOTHER LETTER FROM GOV. KIRKWOOD.

MT. PLEASANT, IOWA, Oct. 15, 1901.

MY DEAR SIR: Some time since in looking over a bundle of old papers belonging to my father during his lifetime, I found the enclosed letter from Governor Kirkwood to Col. Cyrus Bussey. I have regarded it as containing matters of more than personal interest, and therefore send it to you, and if it has any value you may retain it in your collection.

The letter is read with a better understanding, when it is known that during the early days of the war, and the few years preceding the opening of the great conflict, Salem, in the south part of Henry county, and not far distant from the Missouri line, was an important station on the underground railroad, and escaping slaves often found harbor and sustenance there. By reason of such conditions there was, as I well remember, alarm felt during the early days of 1861, because of open threats of the Missourians that a raid would be made upon the village, and it was to protect against such that I assume the order contained in the letter was given. At the time this note was written my father was a resident of Salem and a member of the general assembly from Henry county, and I presume he secured from Governor Kirkwood this order to Col. Bussey in the interests of the community he represented. Yours very sincerely,

W. S. WITHROW.

MR. CHARLES ALDRICH, Des Moines, Iowa.

COL. BUSSEY: If you possibly can do so, spare some arms to Salem. They are in daily fear of an attack, and as the rebels seem to have a proclivity in these days for destroying railroads, and Salem is a station on a leading road, there is some cause for fear.

Very truly,

July 27, 1861.

SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD.

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