

The Editor of *THE ANNALS* has repeatedly urged the friends of Mr. Talbot to furnish a sketch of his life for these pages, but unsuccessfully up to this time. The writer saw him on many occasions and heard and read much concerning him. He was an active, local politician—a prominent figure at caucuses and conventions. As an artist, opinions were quite diverse. His friends regarded him as a neglected genius. That he was a man of ability is sufficiently evidenced by his illustrated contributions to *Harper's Magazine*. His eccentricity is shown by the fact that when near his end he wished to be "buried" in a tree, after the fashion of the Sioux Indians. He lived, it is said, in chronic fear of premature burial. His death occurred at Polk City about the year 1878.

LEAVING THE STATE.

Intelligence reached us last month that Henry W. Lathrop, a resident of Iowa City for more than forty years, had removed to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Mr. Lathrop is now far advanced in life, being near his 80th birthday. He will live with a married daughter who resides at the place whither he has gone to spend his remaining days. Mr. Lathrop has been a most useful citizen in many ways. The first we heard of him he was one of the reporters for the daily press in the convention (1857) which framed the present constitution of our State. His portrait appears among those connected with the deliberations of that body. Since those days he has written much for the newspaper press, though residing for the most part on his beautiful farm on the west side of the river opposite Iowa City. He has, however, been more conspicuously known through his life of Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood, and his various writings for *The Iowa Historical Record*. For many years he took quite a conspicuous part in the deliberations of the State Horticultural Society. His writings, largely records of what has passed under his own observation, will thus have a permanent place in the publications of his times, and become matters of reference in coming years. His life has been a praiseworthy one. And now it is but natural that he should choose to spend his declining years with his own kindred, even though he leaves the State he loves so well. The men of his day—Samuel J. Kirkwood, T. S. Parvin, Samuel Trowbridge, Robert Lucas, M. W. Davis, W. F. Coolbaugh, Ezekiel Clark, and scores of others who might be named—are mostly dead, or like himself well stricken in years. Mr. Lathrop always had a friendly regard for *THE ANNALS* and the Historical Department. In fact, when the rooms were first opened in

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-

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