

## NOTES AND COMMENT

*Education as Related to Life* is the subject of the address which was given by Mr. George D. Perkins, of Sioux City, at the commencement of the State University of Iowa on June 15, 1904.

At the dedication of the Free Public Library of Davenport, Iowa, on May 11, 1904, Mr. John F. Dillon, at one time Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Iowa, delivered the dedicatory address. Mr. Dillon's address, along with some correspondence relative to the Public Library of Davenport, has been printed in a pamphlet of fifty-five pages.

The Rev. John F. Kempker, who has written much concerning the history of the Catholic Church in Iowa, contributes an eighteen page pamphlet on *The Catholic Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa*.

On May 9, 1904, at the annual meeting of the Lucas County Historical Society at Chariton, Iowa, Professor Benj. F. Shambaugh, representing the State Historical Society of Iowa, delivered an address on *Early Iowa and the Pioneers*.

*Six Uncrowned Rulers of Modern Europe* is the title of a syllabus of six lectures by Professor W. C. Wilcox which has recently been published through the department of university extension at the State University of Iowa. The lectures are being given for the first time at the Summer Session (1904) of the University.

In commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of its founding, the *Jackson Sentinel* recently issued an illustrated souvenir magazine edition of fifty-eight pages which is chiefly devoted to matters of local history. The article by Mary A. Reid and Harvey Reid entitled *What Made Maquoketa: The Pioneer Colonies of the City and Vicinity* deserves special mention as a really valuable contribution to local history.



*The Hawaiian Case* by Judge Emlin McClain is a fourteen page pamphlet which appears as a reprint from No. 6, of volume XVII of the *Harvard Law Review*.

Dr. Thomas Day Seymour, Professor of Greek in Yale University, and President of the Archæological Institute of America, delivered an illustrated lecture on *Recent Excavations and Explorations in Greek Lands* at the State University of Iowa, April 6, 1904.

The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary, in 1906, of the founding of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is being contemplated.

On Thursday afternoon, May 26, 1904, an engraved bronze mural tablet, as a memorial to Captain Thomas Drummond, was presented to the State of Iowa at the Iowa College for the Blind at Vinton. The tablet was formally presented by Mr. Cato Sells on behalf of the citizens of Vinton and Benton County and accepted by Governor A. B. Cummins on behalf of the State of Iowa. Others who participated in the program were: Senator W. P. Whipple, Professor T. F. Tobin, Mr. I. Van Meter, and Mr. A. N. Harbert. Captain Drummond had been instrumental in having the College for the Blind located at Vinton. To Mr. A. N. Harbert, a member of the State Historical Society of Iowa, is due a large share of the credit of this fitting tribute to the memory of Captain Drummond. A full account of the exercises including Mr. Harbert's biographical sketch of Captain Drummond is given in *The Vinton Eagle* of May 27, 1904.

Dr. William J. Campbell, the well known bookseller of Philadelphia, is writing an elaborate work on St. Memin portraits. It will be in eight volumes, with over eight hundred and thirty engraved portraits all on separate pages. The basis of the book will be the famous "Collection" of 761 proofs, made by the artist himself, which has recently come into Dr. Campbell's possession. The Corcoran Gallery of Art and the Library of Congress, both of which have extensive collections, are coöperating with the author, giving



him the free use of any portraits that they possess that are not in his own collection. Anyone having information either biographical or genealogical about any portrait that St. Memin made, or any information as to the present whereabouts of any original crayons, coppers, or engravings will confer a favor on the author by communicating with him. Dr. Campbell's address is 1218 Walnut Street, Philadelphia.

Mr. Irving B. Richman, member of the Board of Curators of the State Historical Society of Iowa, will write the volume on *Rhode Island* for the *American Commonwealth Series* published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

The *First Report of the Iowa Library Commission, 1900-1903*, is an interesting and valuable history of library conditions and progress in Iowa. As indicated by the title, no report has been issued before this one by the Library Commission; and this first report goes back, therefore, to the inception of the activities of the Commission and its connection with the traveling library system. After a brief chapter on *Library Extension in Iowa*, and practical notes on the work of the Commission as seen in its publications, summer library school, periodical clearing house, etc., the report gives historical sketches of the seventy-seven free public libraries of Iowa, with illustrations, and adds an appendix on the library law, statistics of Iowa libraries, etc. As the Secretary of the Iowa Library Commission states, "the purpose for which the Library Commission exists is to encourage and aid the establishment of free public libraries in the State. Judged by this report of library conditions in Iowa, the Commission is to be congratulated upon the gratifying results of its work.

The *President's Address* before the class of initiates to Sigma Xi at the State University of Iowa, which was delivered by Professor Thomas H. Macbride in February, 1902, has recently been published in pamphlet form.



The *Second Annual Report of the Director of the Department of Archives and History of the State of Mississippi* (October 1, 1902 to October 1, 1903) shows that Mr. Dunbar Rowland, the Director of the Department, is accomplishing much in the direction of the better preservation of materials bearing upon the history of Mississippi.

Professor Samuel Calvin's thirtieth anniversary of the commencement of his work as a teacher of Natural Science in the State University of Iowa was recently commemorated by his former students in the presentation of a \$400 loving cup. A few weeks prior to this event Professor Calvin resigned from the position of State Geologist which he had held since 1892.

The fifty dollar prize offered this year by the Iowa Society of the Colonial Dames of America for the best essay on some phase of early Iowa history written by a student of an Iowa college or university was awarded to Mr. Jacob Van der Zee, of the State University. For the last two years Mr. Van der Zee has been an assistant in the State Historical Society. His essay is entitled *The Roadways of Territorial Iowa*.

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has undertaken to reprint the first series, being volumes I to X, of the Society's *Collections*. Volume I has already been issued.

Two hundred thousand dollars were appropriated by the Thirtieth General Assembly of Iowa for the erection of a building in Des Moines which will accommodate the State Library, the Historical Department, and the Iowa Library Commission. The work on the building is already under way.

#### THE GRINNELL SEMI-CENTENNIAL

The semi-centennial anniversary of the founding of Grinnell was commemorated on June 10, 1904. The whole day was given up to the exercises which had been carefully arranged for by the general



committee of which the venerable Professor L. F. Parker acted as chairman. In the forenoon a program of papers and addresses was followed by a procession of citizens and guests to Hazelwood cemetery where the graves of J. B. Grinnell, Thomas Holyoke, and Homer Hamlin—three of the founders of Grinnell—were appropriately crowned and decorated. Then followed a luncheon at the Congregational church. The afternoon was given up to short after-dinner addresses.

The semi-centennial was made the occasion for collecting data and material relative to the history of Grinnell, and arrangements have been made to have all contributions, including the formal addresses given at the celebration, permanently preserved in the Stewart Public Library.

Such celebrations as these deepen the interest of the community in its past history. In Iowa the day of semi-centennials is just beginning. The example of Grinnell ought to be followed by every town and village in the State.

#### THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF LINN COUNTY

That the interest in local history is on the increase in Iowa is indicated by the formation at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, of a local historical society.

It was on Thursday evening, March 31, 1904, that a group of gentlemen met at the home of Luther A. Brewer and resolved to form the "Historical Society of Linn County, Iowa." At this same meeting the following officers were elected: President, Calvin G. Greene; Vice-president, Luther A. Brewer; Secretary, J. A. Runkle; Treasurer, Lew W. Anderson; Curator, Albert N. Harbert. These officers, with Thomas Devendorf, Ernest R. Moore, B. L. Wick, and Nathaniel M. Hubbard, were constituted the Board of Directors. At this first meeting the Society accepted the invitation of the trustees of Cedar Rapids public library to hold its meetings in the library rooms. It is furthermore arranged that when the new library building is completed the collections of the historical society will be housed therein.



At a meeting which was held at the public library on May 31, 1904, a Constitution and By-laws were adopted. The annual membership fee was fixed at \$2.00. Persons desiring to join the Society may communicate with the Secretary, Mr. J. A. Runkle, Cedar Rapids.

The first meeting of the Society since the adoption of the Constitution was held on Friday evening, June 28, 1904. At this meeting the following were elected to honorary membership: Mr. Charles Aldrich, of Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. B. F. Shambaugh, of Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. John F. Dillon of New York City, New York; and Mr. William Salter, of Burlington, Iowa.

The prospects of the Historical Society of Linn County are certainly promising. Among its charter members are a number of men who have already shown an active interest in local history. From the very outset the Society has the coöperation of the Cedar Rapids public library; and it has already been enrolled among the auxiliary members of the State Historical Society at Iowa City.

#### THE LUCAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Lucas County Historical Society held an annual meeting at Chariton, June 9, 1904. In the morning a business meeting was followed by the reading of papers touching upon local history. In the afternoon officers were elected and a program of addresses carried out. The officers elected were: President Col. Warren S. Dungan; Vice-President, Thomas Gay; Secretary, Miss Laura Fitch; Treasurer, Horace G. Larimer; Curator, Miss Margaret W. Brown; Directors, Mrs. Jessie M. Thayer, Hon. R. A. Hazelquist, Mrs. F. H. Boynton, and T. M. Dunsbee.

The Lucas County Historical Society was the first county historical society organized in this State. Ex-Lieutenant Governor Warren S. Dungan and Miss Margaret W. Brown have been especially active in its promotion. The people of the whole county are interested, and auxiliary township societies have been formed. In the new public library building which is in process of erection a room has been set



aside for the use of the Society, and at present the members are engaged in an effort to raise funds for its suitable furnishing.

It is not only interesting but really inspiring to attend the meetings of these local historical societies. To be sure the beginnings are sometimes small and the first efforts to preserve the material of local history are often feeble; but let no one despise these days of small beginnings when the seeds of our local provincial history are being sown. The harvest will soon follow.

#### THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At a meeting in the office of the County Superintendent on Tuesday evening, March 15, 1904, the Madison County Historical Society was organized and the following officers elected:—President, H. A. Mueller; Vice-President, T. H. Stone; Secretary, J. A. Way; Treasurer, E. R. Zeller; and Board of Directors, C. C. Schwaner, G. W. Poffinbarger, J. C. Clark, and O. L. Evans. A Constitution and By-laws for the organization were adopted, and provision was made for the selection of a Corresponding Secretary in each township of the county. Through these Corresponding Secretaries the materials of local history will be gathered.

An open meeting of the Society was held on April 29, 1904, at which Mr. E. R. Zeller read a paper on *Pioneer Life, its Trials and Triumphs*, and Mr. W. S. Wilkinson read a paper on *Early Days on Middle River*. Copies of these papers have been placed in the library of the State Historical Society at Iowa City.

The Madison County Historical Society is organized "for the purpose of collecting and preserving books, papers and records, writings and relics, and other materials relating to the history of Madison County;" but its collections may include matter illustrative of the history of the State and Nation.

#### NOTES RELATIVE TO THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Volume VI of the *Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of Iowa* is in press and will be issued sometime during the summer.



This Society has begun the publication of *Bulletins of Information*. The first of the series was issued under the date of April, 1904, and relates to membership in the Society. *Bulletin* No. 2, issued in May, 1904, is *An Iowa Program for Study Clubs*. It was prepared in response to a demand for some specific suggestions and recommendations relative to subjects in Iowa history suitable to the purposes of study clubs in Iowa.

Dr. Duren J. H. Ward has been authorized to continue his survey of Iowa mounds. Reports of his work will be made to the Board of Curators from time to time. During the month of June his explorations were in the vicinity of the Amana Community on the Iowa river, where he has definitely located over one hundred mounds.

During the period from March 15 to May 15, 1904, twenty-eight volumes were added to the library by purchase, and two hundred pamphlets and four hundred and six volumes were received as gifts, making a total addition to the library for that period of six hundred and thirty-four volumes and pamphlets.

The following persons have been admitted to membership in the Society since January 1, 1904:—Chas. E. Moore, Waterloo; H. S. Nollen, Des Moines; Horace Boies, Grundy Center; Roy A. Cook, Independence; E. E. Clark, Des Moines; Wm. L. Read, Des Moines; C. G. Green, Cedar Rapids; J. F. Kempker, Lacona; J. B. Weaver, Jr., Des Moines; S. H. Harper, Ottumwa; Chas. F. Noe, Amana; M. L. Ferson, Iowa City; Allen Johnson, Grinnell; J. J. Louis, Harlan; E. R. Harlan, Keosauqua; Jos. H. Allen, Pocahontas; H. H. Seerley, Cedar Falls; A. B. Storms, Ames; George W. Egan, Logan.

Through the kindness of the Hon. M. J. Wade, the library has received from the U. S. government more than three hundred volumes of United States documents of the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth Congresses. The set includes such reports as those of the Geological Survey, Mexican Boundary Commission, Finance and Commerce, Labor Department, etc.



The library has received from Josiah Granville Leach a copy of the *Chronicle of the Yerkes Family, with Notes on the Leach and Rutter families*. The volume is most beautifully printed, and contains many fine half-tone engravings.

An attempt is being made to collect for the library the printed financial reports of all of the counties of Iowa. It is a matter of regret that some of the counties have failed to comply with the statute which directs the publication of such reports annually.

From the Indiana State Library an exchange of forty-six volumes of Indiana documents has been received.

The provision for library membership in the State Historical Society of Iowa provides that any public, school, or college library in the State of Iowa may be enrolled as a library member upon application and the payment of a fee of \$1.00. Such library membership may be retained after the first year upon the payment of \$1.00 annually. Libraries enrolled as library members of the State Historical Society of Iowa are entitled to receive the quarterly and all other publications of the Society issued during the period of their membership. Under this provision sixty-one public libraries, twenty-nine college libraries, and ten school libraries have availed themselves of the privilege of being enrolled as library members.

Among the volumes in the library is a large collection of duplicates, chiefly of Iowa State publications, kept for the purpose of exchange for similar publications of other States and societies; these number at present over eleven thousand, and include old numbers of the *Annals of Iowa*, reports of Iowa State institutions, reports of State officers, volumes of the Iowa legislative documents, Senate and House journals, etc.

From the Hon. M. J. Wade, the library has received the volume of *Memorial Addresses Delivered before the Two Houses of Congress on the Life and Character of Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield,*



and William McKinley. The addresses were delivered by Hon. George Bancroft, Hon. James G. Blaine, and Hon. John Hay, respectively. The volume is a beautiful specimen of the printer's craft and contains a portrait etching of each of the martyred presidents.

New certificates of membership have been issued to all active, library, and auxiliary members of the Society.

At the July, 1904, meeting of the Board of Curators the following officers were elected:—President, Peter A. Dey; Vice-President, Isaac A. Loos; Secretary, Frank E. Horack; Treasurer, Lovell Swisher. Miss Margaret Budington was elected Acting-Librarian.

In June, 1904, Governor Albert B. Cummins reappointed the following members of the Board of Curators:—Harvey Ingham, of Des Moines; Irving B. Richman, of Muscatine; E. W. Stanton, of Ames; L. W. Parish, of Cedar Falls; J. J. McConnell, of Cedar Rapids; Charles E. Shelton, of Indianola; J. F. Mitchell, of Des Moines; William Milchrist, of Sioux City; and W. H. Byers, of Harlan.

From August first to about the middle of September the library of the Society will be closed except on Saturday mornings when it will be open from nine to twelve. But anyone desiring to pursue investigations during the vacation may be admitted upon application to the Secretary.

At a meeting of the Board of Curators in March, 1904, the following provisions were made for *auxiliary membership* in the Society:

Local historical societies (such as county historical societies, city or town historical societies, and old settlers' associations) may be enrolled as auxiliary members of THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA upon application of such local historical societies and upon the approval of their applications by the Board of Curators of THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA.

Patriotic organizations within the State of Iowa (such as the Iowa Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Iowa Society



of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Iowa Society of Colonial Wars, and the Iowa Society of Colonial Dames) may be enrolled as auxiliary members of THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA upon application of such organizations and upon the approval of their applications by the Board of Curators of THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA.

Auxiliary societies or organizations shall be entitled to membership in THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA and shall have one vote at the annual meeting of this Society. Each auxiliary society or organization shall be entitled to receive all the publications of THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA issued during the period of its affiliation as an auxiliary member.

Auxiliary societies or organizations shall not be required to pay any fees or dues to THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA.

The following have been enrolled as auxiliary members:—

The Madison County Historical Society.

The Lucas County Historical Society.

The Historical Society of Linn County.

The Old Settlers' Association of Southwest Iowa.

The Jackson County Historical Society.

The Maquoketa Valley Pioneer and Old Settlers Society.

The Old Settlers' Association of Grinnell.

At the July, 1904, meeting of the Board of Curators the Secretary submitted a detailed financial statement for the year beginning July 1, 1903, and ending June 30, 1904. The following is a summary of the report:—

*Receipts*

General code fund—total receipts including balance on	
hand July 1, 1903.....	\$1005.97
General 1902 fund—total receipts including balance on	
hand July 1, 1903.....	1522.45
Special 1902 fund—total receipts including balance on	
hand July 1, 1903.....	4915.51



Act of 28 G. A. fund—balance on hand July 1, 1903.....	12.16
Publication and membership fund—total receipts including balance on hand July 1, 1903.....	783.28
	<u>\$8239.37</u>

*Expenditures*

	AMOUNT	BALANCE
General code fund—total expenditures.....	\$1005.97	\$ 000.00
General 1902 fund—total expenditures.....	1522.45	000.00
Special 1902 fund—total expenditures.....	3949.21	966.30
Act of 28 G. A. fund—total expenditures....	12.16	00.00
Publication and membership fund—total ex- penditures.....	198.44	584.84
Total expenditures, all funds.....	\$6688.23	\$1551.14
Total balance, all funds.....	1551.14	
Total receipts, all funds.....	\$8239.37	

Recent legislation concerning the Society is as follows:

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:—*

SECTION 1. That there be and is hereby appropriated to the State Historical Society of Iowa, out of any money in the State treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500), annually hereafter as a permanent support: For the continued publication of THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS; for the continuation of the compilation and publication of the messages and proclamations of the Governors of Iowa; for the collection, compilation and publication of documentary materials relating to the history of Iowa, including such of the archives of the State and Territory of Iowa as are of historical importance; for the publication of historical monographs, biographies, essays, lectures, bibliographs and indexes; for the proper maintenance of the library of the society, the collection and purchase of publications bearing upon Iowa and American history and the proper classifying, cataloguing and indexing of such material; for the carrying out of a systematic and scientific anthropological survey of the State; for conducting public lectures of a historical character; and for meeting the



incidental and other necessary expenses incurred in connection with the prosecution of the work of the said State Historical Society of Iowa as indicated in this act and Title XIII (13), chapter eighteen (18), section twenty-eight hundred and eighty-two (2882) of the Code.

SEC. 2. That the permanent annual appropriation herein provided for shall take the place and be in lieu of all other permanent annual appropriations heretofore made to the State Historical Society of Iowa, and the same shall be paid in quarterly installments on the order of the Board of Curators of the said State Historical Society of Iowa, the first installment to be paid on July 1, 1904.

SUGGESTIONS TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES IN IOWA RELATIVE TO COLLECTING AND PRESERVING MATERIALS OF LOCAL HISTORY

In collecting and preserving the materials of local history, the public libraries of Iowa have an important function to perform. They should aim to do for their local communities what the State Historical Society of Iowa is attempting to do for the State at large. Furthermore, wherever it is practicable the public library should cooperate with the local historical society. Thus the public library and the local historical society may with advantage work together in collecting and preserving the materials of local history.

AMERICAN HISTORY

In the first place it is suggested that there should be placed upon the shelves of the public library several of the standard works on American history. The following are suggested as among the general works on American history which are especially suitable for the public libraries of Iowa:—*The American History Series*, 6 vols., Scribners; *Epochs of American History*, 3 vols., Longmans; Hart, *American History told by Contemporaries*, 4 vols., Macmillan; Schouler, *History of the United States*, 6 vols., Dodd, Mead & Co.; McMaster, *History of the People of the United States*, 6 vols., Appletons; Thorpe, *Constitutional History of the American People*, 2 vols., Harpers; Rhodes, *History of the United States from 1850*, 4



vols., Harpers; Channing and Hart, *Guide to American History*, Ginn & Co.; Channing, *The United States of America, 1765-1865*, Macmillan; Bryce, *The American Commonwealth*, Macmillan; McMaster, *School History of the United States*, American Book Co.

## IOWA HISTORY

In the second place it is suggested that the public library should aim to secure books and pamphlets bearing upon the history of Iowa. Among the most valuable of the publications on Iowa history are those issued by the State Historical Society of Iowa, which may be secured through the provision which the Society has made for library membership. (See *Bulletin of Information*, No. 2. It will be sent upon application). The larger libraries will doubtless aim to keep the public documents of the State, that is, the legislative documents, House and Senate journals, the Supreme Court Reports, the Official Register, etc. (See *Check List of the Publications of the State of Iowa*. Apply to Iowa Library Commission, Des Moines, Iowa).

## LOCAL HISTORY

In the third place it is suggested that the public library in coöperation with the local historical society should make a business of collecting and preserving the data and materials pertaining to the life and history of the community in which the library and historical society are located. Indeed, the public library should become the store house for all such matter as: (1) files of the local newspapers and sets of periodicals and journals published in the community; (2) official publications of the town and county in which the library is located (e. g., city ordinances, school laws, and reports of county officers); (3) local town or city directories; (4) announcements, programs, proceedings, etc., of all local historical, literary, scientific, political, philanthropical, educational, fraternal, and religious clubs and organizations; (5) books, pamphlets, articles, etc., written by men and women who live in the community in which the library is located; (6) photographs and autographs and autograph letters of prominent citizens; and (7) clippings relative to the local community.



The following suggestions may be of assistance to public libraries and local historical societies in preserving local history materials.

Besides the copies of local papers received for filing, an extra copy of each should be secured for clippings. Thus, obituaries may be clipped, pasted in a large scrap book, indexed under the subject, and given a subject entry in the card catalogue. Other clippings may be mounted on note paper of octavo size and filed in pamphlet cases for safe keeping. This case may be lettered on the back with subject and volume number, which in abbreviated form should be repeated in pencil on the pamphlet itself, and serve as a reference or catalogue card. Sometimes enough material on one subject is clipped which when mounted will be found to be of sufficient interest and quantity to warrant binding in book form and being placed on the shelves with other volumes.

If the subject matter of a pamphlet is not considered of sufficient importance to enter in the current catalogue, but is still of enough interest to preserve, then it is easy to insert it with others of its kind where on occasion it may with slight trouble be found.

Manuscripts and letters may be bound by mounting them on transparent surgeon's plaster or architect's tracing paper. In this way it is possible to read a sheet written or printed on both sides. Mounted photographs, wood-cuts, newspaper clippings, manuscripts and letters are sometimes tastefully bound together to illustrate the life and work of some person or some notable historical event, making a unique and interesting volume or booklet.

Programs of women's and other clubs may be preserved in large manila envelopes and filed away in pamphlet cases in alphabetical or chronological order. Leaflets, announcements, constitutions of societies, and even concert and theater programs, lecture announcements, school programs—in fact, anything and everything—may be preserved and filed away either in manila envelopes or in the form of made-up pamphlets, and arranged either chronologically or alphabetically in pamphlet cases.

During political campaigns large scrap-books may be filled with



leaflets, dodgers, broadsides, announcements, caricatures, posters, pictures, etc., illustrating the politics of the day.

THE MISSION OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

[The following paragraphs are taken from an article by Mr. Reuben Gold Thwaites, Secretary of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.]<sup>1</sup>

“All librarians who have in charge such treasures are aware of the general popular interest in old pamphlets, newspaper files, and the odds and ends of printed matter issued in ephemeral form, provided they are old enough to have ceased to be commonplace. That with which we are all familiar is commonplace, and generally held in slight value; but the commonplaces of one generation are the treasured relics of the next. It is not mere idle curiosity, this interest of ours in the things with which our fathers were familiar. Relics in museums enable us more accurately in imagination to redress the stage of history; but the literary ephemera of other days, preserved in libraries, are still more valuable as mirrors of the past. The chance advertisement in the old newspaper, the tattered playbill, the quaintly phrased pamphlet, or musty diary or letter of a former time, mean more to the modern historian than any other form of historical record. In earlier days, history was thought to be simply the doings of monarchs and the conduct of campaigns; but Macaulay and Green have shown us that the history of the people is what benefits us most,—how John and Mary lived in their wayside cottage, how Peter and Paul bargained in the market place, how the literati toiled in Grub street, and seafarers journeyed over the face of the deep.

“The other day Woodrow Wilson said, at the Princeton semi-centennial: ‘The world’s memory must be kept alive, or we shall never see an end to its old mistakes. We are in danger of becoming infantile in every generation. This is the real menace under which we cower in this age of change.’ It is the office of the historian to keep the world’s memory alive. There will never be an end of the writing of history. Some one has truly said, each generation must write all

<sup>1</sup> Taken from the *Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin*, 1896.



past history afresh, from its own changing standpoint. But that this may continue, and with increasing advantage, there must never be an end of accumulating historical material; each generation must accumulate its own, for the benefit of its successor.

“In the libraries of the old world, there are many magnificent collections of broadsides, leaflets, tracts, pamphlets, which earnest, thoughtful men have, in past generations, accumulated for our benefit. One of the most notable of these is the collection known as the Thomason Tracts in the British Museum—30,000 specimens of the literary flotsam and jetsam of the middle of the seventeenth century,—pamphlets, circulars, prospectuses, broadsides, programmes, and what not,—each one carefully labeled by the industrious London bookseller, Thomason, with the day of its acquisition. Thus we have, for the entire period of the civil war in England, a faithful day-by-day picture of surpassing interest and value, to which historians are ever turning as to an inexhaustible mine of material, and concerning which Macaulay and a host of others have recorded words of the warmest praise.

“In olden times, enterprises of this character were left to the chance of individual initiative. To-day, they may be better, more systematically, done by public librarians. It is not possible, nor is it advisable, for every public library to engage in a task of this character, upon any extended scale. It is sufficient that a few great libraries undertake missions of this sort, libraries, perhaps, in widely-separated cities; but certain it is, that each public library can and should make collections of this character for its own community, and the library at the county seat should seek to cover, so far as may be, its own county.

“It is difficult to specify just what the local library should make a serious business of collecting; it is easier to make a list of what should not be gathered. But especially would we urge the accumulation of newspaper files, the daily or weekly mirror of the community's life; and these files should, if possible, be complete back to the beginning. All manner of published reports should be obtained



—those of the common council, the county board of supervisors, the various public institutions located in the community; the published memorial sermons, society year-books, printed rules and constitutions of local lodges, catalogues and programmes of local colleges and academies; published addresses of any sort; any manner of literature published by the churches, whether in the form of papers, membership lists, appeals for aid, or what not; programmes of local musicals, concerts, veteran camp fires, etc., would be found in time to have great interest to the local historian. In fact, all of this printed material will prove in due course of time to be a fund of information which shall make the library a Mecca for all who wish for any purpose to refresh their memory relative to the life of the town. Just as we regard everything familiar as commonplace and worthless, do we delude ourselves with the notion that we and ours are to live always. Librarians should remember that this generation and its affairs are but passing phases of world-life; in due course what they have gathered of the literary drift-wood of to-day will be of priceless value to their successors in office. Librarians are generally recognized as missionaries unto the present generation; but let us, in our zeal for present results, not forget to be as well missionaries unto the future, and thereby earn the praise which comes to him who plants a tree for the delectation of those who come after.”



## CONTRIBUTORS

HORACE E. DEEMER, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Iowa. Born in Marshall County, Indiana, 1858. Graduated from the Law College of the State University of Iowa in 1879. Elected District Judge in 1886; reëlected in 1890. In 1894 he was appointed by Governor Frank D. Jackson as the sixth judge of the Supreme Court of Iowa. Through election and reëlection he has continued to occupy a position in the highest judicial tribunal of the State. His home is at Red Oak, Iowa.

DUREN JAMES HENDERSON WARD, Secretary of the Iowa Anthropological Association. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for January, 1903.)

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SHAMBAUGH, Professor of Political Science in the State University of Iowa. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, for April, 1903.)

FRANK EDWARD HORACK, Instructor in Political Science at the State University of Iowa. Author of *The Organization and Control of Industrial Corporations*. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for April, 1903.)

JESSE MACY, Professor of Political Science in Iowa College, Grinnell. Born in Henry County, Indiana, 1842. Graduated from Iowa College in 1870. Received the degree of A. M. from Iowa College in 1873 and the degree of LL.D. from Brown University in 1898. Author of *Civil Government in Iowa; Institutional Beginnings in a Western State; Our Government; A Government Text-Book for Iowa Schools; The English Constitution; Political Parties in the United States; etc.*

MARGARET BUDINGTON, Acting Librarian and Cataloguer of the State Historical Society of Iowa. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for October, 1903.)



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