

NOTES AND COMMENT

GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS

The committee of the American Historical Association on "The best Methods of Organization and Work on the Part of State and Local Historical Societies" will hold a meeting at Iowa City, Iowa, on May 16, 1905.

The nineteenth annual meeting of the Iowa Academy of Sciences will be held at Grinnell, April 20 and 21, 1905.

The Iowa State Medical Society will hold its annual meeting at Des Moines, May 17-19, 1905.

The December 17, 1904, issue of *Charities*, the official organ of The Charity Organization Society, New York City, contains an article on *The Seventh Iowa State Conference of Charities and Corrections*, communicated by Professor I. A. Loos.

The leading article in the January, 1905, *Quarterly of the Iowa Library Commission* is by Mr. Johnson Brigham and is entitled *Iowa in the World's Literature*.

The Virginia Society of Colonial Dames, in placing a tablet on the unmarked grave of Augustine Washington (father of George Washington) in the cemetery at Wakefield, Westmoreland County, Virginia, is to be highly commended. The Society repaired, at the same time, two Washington tombs and enclosed the cemetery.

The L. R. Hamersly Co. of New York City has recently published *A Military and Naval Dictionary*. It contains definitions of all terms used in the military and naval services, as well as brief definitions of the powers appertaining to each department of the United States government and the duties of government officials.

In a pamphlet presented to the Board of Education of Greater New York by the New York Association for Improving the Condi-

tion of the Poor, the statistical technique is written by Professor W. R. Patterson.

A chronological account of the principal events in the history of Madison County, Iowa, from the advent of the first settler in 1846 to the rebuilding of the court house in 1876, appears in *The Winterset Madisionian* of February 23, 1905.

The city of Fort Dodge has accepted the gift of a beautiful tract of wooded land situated near the city and known as Oleson's park. The owner is Mr. O. M. Oleson, a public spirited citizen of Fort Dodge. The tract of land will be kept and used for a public park.

Additions to the Bibliography of Rafinesque by T. J. Fitzpatrick is a thirteen page pamphlet issued in February, 1905. Mr. Fitzpatrick makes seventy-four additions and emendations to the bibliography of Rafinesque compiled by R. Ellsworth Call, a former Iowan, in his *Life and Writings of Rafinesque*, published by the Filson Club, Louisville, Kentucky, in 1895. The books and papers from which the additions are made are all in the private library of the compiler, Mr. Fitzpatrick.

The Official Report of the Thirteenth Universal Peace Congress, which was held at Boston, October 3-8, 1904, has appeared in octavo form with three hundred and fifty-one pages and has been distributed by The Peace Congress Committee, Boston, Mass.

The Good Roads Association and Farmers' Institute of Madison County, Iowa, held a three days' session at Winterset, March 15-17, 1905. Papers of interest were read and discussed. Some of the more noteworthy of these were: *The Face of Iowa*, by Professor Samuel Calvin; *The Improvement of Farm Crops*, by Professor James Atkinson; *Beef Type and Beef Production*, by Professor W. J. Rutherford; and *Agricultural Possibilities of Iowa*, by Mr. J. S. Trigg.

The Annual Report of the Carnegie-Stout Free Public Library, Dubuque, Iowa, 1904, was issued in March, 1905. From this second annual report it is seen that there are 23,388 volumes in the

library; that during the past year there were added 1,290 volumes by purchase, and 847 by gift; that in 1904 the circulation of books numbered 101,687, there being an increase of 880 in the number of unbound periodicals circulated; and that 1,410 names were added to the roll of membership, making a total of 7,254.

The January, 1905, number of the *Iowa Medical Journal* contains a directory of Iowa Physicians and Surgeons arranged by counties and also alphabetically. Over three thousand and five hundred physicians are listed. The colleges from which these Iowa physicians graduated number one hundred and sixty-two.

The seventeenth annual meeting of the *Iowa State Veterinary Medical Association* was held at Des Moines, January 25-26, 1905. The sessions were well attended and of unusual interest. The officers selected for the year are: President, S. H. Bauman, of Birmingham; first Vice-president, Peter Malcom, of New Hampton; second Vice-president, W. H. Austin, of Newton; Secretary and Treasurer, Hal C. Simpson, of Denison; Board of Censors, G. L. Buffington, of Brooklyn, C. E. Stewart, of Chariton, and D. Miller, of Harlan. The next meeting will be held at Ames during the annual course in corn and live stock judging.

Jesse Abner Runkle died suddenly on January 19, 1905, in his office at Cedar Rapids. The immediate cause of his death was heart failure. Mr. Runkle was born at Lisbon, in Linn County, Iowa, July 12, 1863. He attended Western College, at Toledo, graduating from the classical course in 1887. Later he entered the Law Department of The State University of Iowa and graduated in 1893. He soon engaged in the practice of law at Cedar Rapids, where he continued in his profession until the day of his death. Mr. Runkle was one of the charter members of the Linn County Historical Society and served efficiently as its Secretary. The Linn County Historical Society held a memorial meeting on January 31, 1905, in memory of Mr. Runkle. At this meeting brief addresses were made by Mr. Luther A. Brewer, Mr. William R. Boyd, and Professor I. A. Loos.

The Report of the Librarian of Congress for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904, has been distributed. The report is an illustrated volume of over five hundred pages containing information concerning the activities of the library force, the report of the librarian, list of manuscript accessions for 1903-1904, publications of historical material by the United States government, noteworthy accessions of maps and charts, report on the exhibit of the Library of Congress at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, and a select list of recent purchases by the library.

An interesting manuscript which was found recently has the following title page: *Lectures Delivered by Professor Amos Dean, Winter Term, 1860-61, at the University of Albany, New York.* The volume contains almost three hundred finely written pages. The first course of lectures number 1 to 57, and was delivered November 27, 1860, to February 21, 1861. The second course of lectures is for the Spring term, numbers 1 to 31, and was delivered March 5 to April 16, 1861. The lectures are written in full and are annotated. Professor Dean was the first President of The State University of Iowa.

Hon. Lot Thomas died at Yuma, Arizona, March 17, 1905. Mr. Thomas was born October 17, 1843, in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. His early life was spent on a farm. In 1864 he entered Vermillion Institute at Hayesville, Ohio, where he remained until the fall of 1868. On leaving school he came to Warren County, Iowa, and engaged in teaching. He studied law, and in 1870 entered the Law Department of The State University of Iowa. After two terms of study in law he was admitted to the bar. He began the practice of his profession at Storm Lake, Buena Vista County, Iowa, at which place he continued to reside, save for a short period when he was located at Sioux Rapids. In 1884 Mr. Thomas was elected District Judge in the fourteenth judicial district. This position he held until 1896, when he was elected to Congress. He served eight years in the House of Representatives at Washington, D. C.

"The American Bureau of Industrial Research" has issued two leaflets which bear the date of December, 1904. Leaflet No. 1, is entitled, *Sketch of Organization and Statement of Purposes*; and leaflet No. 2 has for its title, *Reprint of Editorials and Articles Concerning the American Bureau of Industrial Research from "The Commons," April, 1904*. It appears that the American Bureau of Industrial Research has undertaken the study of American industrial development with the purpose of publishing, after years of research, a work entitled *The History of Industrial Democracy in the United States*. A portion of the results of study along certain lines as *New York Building Trades and Labor Conditions in Meat Packing and the Recent Strike* was published in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* for May and November, 1904. Other monographs are in preparation and two are announced as ready for publication, namely, *The Labor Contract with Special Reference to Collective Bargaining in the United States* and *Public Employment*. Some of the monographs will be issued by the University of Wisconsin, while others will appear in various journals. The John Crerar Library, Chicago, and the Library of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, are making extensive collections of historical material to aid in the furtherance of the work which is under the direction of Dr. R. T. Ely.

NOTES ON HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The Madison County Historical Society was organized March 15, 1904, having for its purpose the collection and preservation of books, papers, records, and relics relating to the history of Madison County, Iowa, and of such other material as is illustrative of the history of the State and nation. The annual meeting of the Society was held on March 21, 1905, when a program was given and officers for the ensuing year elected. In June, 1904, the Society was enrolled as an auxiliary member of The State Historical Society of Iowa. The collections of the Society are at present kept in the court house, but will be moved to the Winterset Public Library on the completion of the library building.

The old settlers of Madison County, Iowa, met in the grand jury room of the court house at Winterset, March 4, 1905, and perfected an old settlers' association. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, and the following officers elected: President, George Cox; first Vice-president, W. W. Gentry; second Vice-president, Wm. Brinson; third Vice-president, Geo. W. Seevers; Secretary, T. J. Hudson; Assistant Secretary, G. W. Poffinbarger; Treasurer, Jefferson Wheat; and Chaplain, B. F. Bowlsby. Arrangements were made to hold annual reunions.

The Linn County Historical Society held a meeting in the auditorium of the Free Public Library at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on March 7, 1905. At this meeting Colonel Samuel Wallace Durham, of Marion, addressed the Society on the subject of *Reminiscences of the First Constitutional Convention of Iowa*. This convention met in 1844 at Iowa City, and Colonel Durham is the sole survivor. An interesting coincidence was the fact that he read his paper on the eighty-eighth anniversary of his birth. Colonel Durham took an active part in the deliberations of the now historic convention and his address was replete with interesting and valuable reminiscences. Another meeting of the Linn County Historical Society was held on the evening of February 14, 1905. The address of the evening was given by Mr. Barthinius L. Wick on *Early Steamboating on the Cedar*. On the evening of February 22, 1905, the Society was entertained by *A Symposium on Washington*, presented by "The Coterie," a group composed of several gentlemen of Cedar Rapids.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Historical Society has recently issued its *Bulletin of Information, No. 24*, synopsis of the proceedings of the recent conference of State and local historical societies at Chicago (December 27, 1904), Professor H. E. Bourne's paper on *The Work of American Historical Societies*, and Professor E. G. Bourne's recent destructive criticism of Jonathan Carver's *Travels*.

The museum of the Society has recently been enriched by the acquisition of fifty early impressions from the Roman plates of the

famous Giovanni Battista Piranesi, whose etchings are to be found in limited numbers in the galleries and museums of Europe, but are rarely to be studied from so large a number of the earliest and best impressions as the collection now in Madison comprises. The interest in these pictures is two-fold—historical and artistic. The object of the artist was, as expressed in his own words, “to preserve by the means of engravings the remains of the ancient buildings of Rome,” which he saw “dwindling day by day under the injuries of time and the greed of their owners, who destroy them secretly to sell the material for modern buildings.” And, although not always literal in his representations, he does preserve for us the aspect of much of Rome “before the havoc wrought by one more century of popes and princes and before the cleaning up of the present archæological epoch.” The sum paid was \$700, raised by subscription among the members of the Society.

The retiring president of the Society, the Hon. Robert Laird McCormick, who has moved to Tacoma, Washington, has recently had painted for the Society's gallery, by the well-known artist Edwin Willard Deming, of New York, whose canvases of Indian life have attracted marked attention, a large oil painting representing the landfall of Jean Nicolet in Wisconsin in 1634. The canvas is admirable in every respect, and a notable addition to the rather small number of really excellent Western historical paintings. The artist was guided in his work, throughout, by the suggestions of Dr. Reuben G. Thwaites, Secretary of the Society, who also superintended the composition of Mr. Deming's canvas, painted for the Society last year, representing Charles de Langlade, of Wisconsin, at Braddock's defeat. This picture was also presented by President McCormick.

This year the Society is asking the Wisconsin Legislature for an addition of \$5,000 to its annual stipend, for administrative purposes. The intention is to improve its service to the public by strengthening the library staff at several points.

Dr. Asa Currier Tilton, of the history department of the University of Wisconsin, has resigned his university work to enter the employ of the Society's library as chief of its division of maps and manuscripts.

The *Proceedings* of the fifty-second annual meeting held October 22, 1904, has appeared. The volume contains the reports of committees and officers and other information concerning the work of the Society.

R. G. T.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

By an act of the legislature, approved January 25, 1905, the Secretary of the Society was made ex-officio Superintendent of Census and Vital Statistics, and the necessary provisions were made for caring for this work in the Department of History.

Since the publication of volume 1 of the *Collections* in July, 1903, the Society has shown a wonderful growth. Instead of occupying one room, as it did then, five rooms are now well filled. They are: the office and library, the newspaper and duplicate room, the Philippine room, containing our memorial museum to the First South Dakota Volunteer Infantry, the Indian museum, and the educational exhibit room. The Society recently received the educational and mineral exhibits which South Dakota had at St. Louis.

In August, 1904, the Society received a most valuable addition to its Indian museum from Chief Hump's band on Cherry Creek. They presented the Society the decorated hide tipi, which they made especially for the Society after the model of their old buffalo tipis, together with about forty relics of their early primitive life.

The biennial meeting was held in the Capitol, January 18, 1905. The four members of the Executive Committee whose terms expired with this meeting, namely, Rev. Thomas L. Riggs, Rev. Thomas M. Shanafelt, Prof. Robert F. Kerr, and Dr. DeLorme W. Robinson, were reelected for a term of six years. Rev. Thomas M. Shanafelt was elected President, and Robert F. Kerr, Vice-president. The present officers, Doane Robinson, Secretary, and Ferd J. Good-

fellow, Curator, continue to serve at the pleasure of the Board. The open meeting in the Hall of Representatives was well attended by representative citizens of the State. Rev. Thomas L. Riggs, retiring President, delivered a short address, which was followed by the main address of the evening by Rev. John P. Williamson.

Volume II of the *South Dakota Historical Collections*, is an illustrated volume of two parts with 130 and 523 pages, respectively. Part I contains the reports of the officers of the State Historical Society; First, Second, and Third Annual Review of the Progress of South Dakota for the years 1901, 1902, and 1903; *Bibliography of South Dakota Official Publications*; *Descriptive Catalogue of South Dakota Bound Books Exhibited at St. Louis Exposition*; *Historical Sketch of South Dakota*, by Doane Robinson; *Biennial Address of President Thomas L. Riggs*; *Address of Bishop Thomas O'Gorman*; and an *Analytical Index*. Part II contains *A Comprehensive History of the Dakota or Sioux Indians* by Doane Robinson.

F. J. G.

THE MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the annual meeting, held January 26, 1905, of the Missouri Historical Society (St. Louis), Dr. Cyrus A. Peterson was elected President; William K. Bixby, first Vice-president; D. I. Bushnell, second Vice-president; Charles J. Pettus, Secretary; and Albert T. Terry, Treasurer.

The report of the retiring President, Walter B. Douglas, shows that the library has been increased by 481 books; that portraits of Gen. A. W. Doniphan, Gov. Meriwether Lewis, Gov. M. M. Marquette, Col. David O. Mitchell, Dr. Thomas O'Reilly, Dr. Emil Pretorius, Capt. C. M. Price, and Judge John H. Terry, and photos of Judge J. G. Woerner, James G. Barry, and J. Reddiford have been added to the collection. The President complimented the work of the Archæological Committee, and said that the Society was greatly indebted to Miss Dalton, the librarian, for efficient services.

The Secretary's report shows a membership of 607, a gain of 37 members during the year. Twenty-four members have died and

seven resigned during the year. The visitors numbered 640. The Treasurer's report showed that the total income for 1904 was \$3,230.79 and the disbursements \$2,957.67, leaving a balance of \$273.12.

THE OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, held in San Francisco, November 25 and 26, 1904, a committee was appointed to consider the feasibility of holding a meeting of that organization in Portland, Oregon, during the Lewis and Clark Exposition. At the annual meeting of the members of the Oregon Historical Society, held about the middle of December, 1904, action was taken to coöperate with the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association in arranging a summer meeting sometime during the Exposition period and arrangements for such a meeting are progressing very satisfactorily.

The Oregon Legislature at its recent session appropriated \$7,500 for the support of the Oregon Historical Society for the next two years. This is an increase of \$1,500 over the last appropriation received. The Society had 819 members at the close of its sixth year in December, 1904, and receives about \$1,660 in membership fees.

In the Oregon appropriation for the Lewis and Clark Exposition \$50,000 was set apart for a Memorial Building to become the home of the Society, provided the city of Portland would furnish a site and the Exposition corporation would appropriate at least \$50,000 more for the building.

F. G. Y.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The meetings of the Historical Society of Southern California are held regularly on the first Monday of each month, except in July, August, and September. For the present year the officers are: Mr. Walter R. Bacon, President; Mrs. M. Burton Williamson, 1st Vice-president; Mr. Henry E. Carter, 2nd Vice-president; and Mr. J. M. Guinn, Secretary and Treasurer.

The *Annual Publication of the Historical Society of Southern California and of the Pioneers of Los Angeles County* for 1904 contains the following: *In Memory of Marcus Baker*, by Robert E. C. Stearns; *Down in Panama*, by J. M. Guinn; *Sequoyah*, by J. D. Moody; *California Revolution of 1831, A Notable Manifesto*, by H. D. Barrows; *Pinacate*, by Laura E. King; *Pioneers of Los Angeles County, Officers, Constitution, etc.*; *Los Angeles—The Old and the New*, by L. F. Fisher; *Some Historic Fads and Fakes*, by J. M. Guinn; *Some Indian Experiences*, by J. W. Gillette; *Rain and Rainmakers*, by J. M. Guinn; and *Biographical Sketches*. A portrait of Marcus Baker appears as a frontispiece. J. M. G.

THE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Kansas State Historical Society has been greatly strengthened by the recent action of the legislature; and the Society and its work now constitute a department of State on the same footing as all other State offices.

For thirty years the work of the Society, its salaries, and its incidental expenses have been provided for by the State through biennial appropriation bills. The last legislature, however, stated by statute the number of employees the Society shall have and the salaries to be paid to each. Again the connection between the State and the Society was made more certain by the enactment of a law providing that all records and documents, State and municipal, shall be placed with the Society for preservation and cataloging three years after the current use of the same. In Kansas there has been a reckless disregard for public records, as is evidenced by the fact that in the Governor's office there is not a scratch of the pen beyond 1879. An additional room and \$600 to shelve the same were provided for newspaper files.

The historic sentiment was quite strong with the members of the legislature. They ordered all the battle flags of Kansas transferred from the Adjutant General's office to the museum of the Historical Society, and gave \$1,000 for a plate glass case in which to preserve

and exhibit them. An appropriation of \$1,000 was made to mark the Santa Fe Trail, the most historic line of commerce antedating the railroad anywhere on this continent. The city council of Kansas City, Missouri, has also taken similar action on the same subject.

An appropriation of \$2,500 was also made, provided the State of Colorado would give a like amount, to place a monument on Beecher Island where the battle of Arickaree occurred. This point is in Colorado a few miles from the northwest corner of Kansas, but all the men engaged in the battle except three were pioneer settlers of Lincoln and Ottawa counties, Kansas. This was one of the most remarkable Indian battles in the history of America.

The Society has an order from the printing board for the binding of seven hundred weekly newspapers, two hundred and fifty dailies, and seven hundred volumes of periodicals, pamphlets, and newspaper clippings. This will bring the newspaper binding up to the end of 1904, and the periodicals, etc., up to May, 1905. Altogether the Society has been greatly strengthened, and its work in all directions materially advanced by the recent legislature. G. W. M.

THE MONTANA HISTORICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS LIBRARY

The last publication issued by the Montana Historical and Miscellaneous Library is volume v of *Contributions to the Historical Society of Montana*.

The publication of the biographies and messages of the Territorial Governors of Montana was begun in volume III of the *Historical Contributions*.

The Historical Society of Montana was absorbed by the Historical Department of the Miscellaneous Library in 1893, and since then the Society has not maintained a separate existence. The librarian now collects all historical material possible and edits the volume of *Historical Contributions*.

THE CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Chicago Historical Society has in press and will soon have ready for distribution (1) the *Annual Report* of the Society, and (2) an address by Professor William Rodebaugh on *The Disputed Boundary Line Between Illinois and Wisconsin*.

A committee has under advisement changes in the Constitution of the Society. This committee is to report in April.

At the annual meeting in November, 1904, Mr. Franklin Head was elected President; Mr. Lambert Tree and Mr. Thomas Dent, Vice-presidents; Mr. Ossan Smith, Treasurer; Caroline McIlvaine, Librarian; and Mr. James W. Fertig, Secretary.

On January 3, 1905, a special meeting of the Society was held at which Professor Norman D. Harris, of Lawrence University, gave an address on *Negro Servitude in Illinois*.

On January 20, 1905, Edwin Dook Mead, head of the Old South Work, Boston, gave an address on, *The Work of Washington in Opening up the West*; and on February 21, 1905, Mr. Frank R. Grover, Vice-president of the Evanston Historical Society, gave an address on *Some Indian Land Marks of the North Shore*.

J. W. F.

THE VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Virginia Historical Society has recently taken up the study of the State archives. Copies have been made of portions of the *Journal of the Virginia Council of State, 1720-1734*, which relate to the settlement of the two counties of Brunswick and Spottsylvania. These counties were organized in 1720 and covered a portion of the territory now known as West Virginia and the Shenandoah valley.

Work is being done, under the direction of the Society, in collating a series of documents which relate to the efforts of Virginia to secure from New England a legal extension of its boundaries in the Northwest.

Copies are being made of the *Journals of the Council, 1736-1767*, so as to arrange them chronologically and to make them accessible.

The Society is in close touch with the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, which is making plans for the protection of the relics of Jamestown. The Association owns twenty-two acres of land containing the site of the old Jamestown church. Excavations have brought to light the foundations of the church and of the colonial State House which was standing at the time of Bacon's Rebellion. Precautions have been taken to prevent further damage to the ruins. The grounds are being improved as rapidly as possible. The work on the sea-wall, authorized by Congress, is progressing and will be completed during the coming summer.

W. G. S.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY OF MISSISSIPPI

The Third Annual Report of the Director of the Department of Archives and History of the State of Mississippi, 1903-1904, im-
print 1905, has been distributed by the Director, Mr. Dunbar Row-
land. It contains *Documents Concerning the Aaron Burr Conspir-*
acy from the journal of Cowles Mead and other papers preserved by
him; *Extracts from the Mississippi Messenger* relative to the arrest
and trial of Colonel Burr; *Documents from Journal of Governor*
William C. C. Claiborne, relative to the Burr Conspiracy; *Sketch of*
Aaron Burr, by Judge George Adams, of Mississippi; *Table of Con-*
tents of Governor Winthrop Sargent's Journal, 1798-1801; *Table of*
Contents of Journals of Governor William C. C. Claiborne, 1801-
1816; *Table of Contents of Journals of Governor Robert Williams,*
Acting Governor Cowles Mead, and Governor David Holmes, 1805-
1810; and *Table of Contents of Journal of Governor David Holmes*,
1810-1814.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

The Fourth Annual Meeting of the State Historical Society of
Missouri was held at Columbia on December 9-10, 1904.

The report of the Secretary, which was read at the last annual
meeting, shows that during the last biennial period the Society ob-
tained by exchange and donation 5,505 books and bound periodicals,

and 14,986 pamphlets. The present accession list of the Society not including duplicates or pamphlets is 9,411. An exhibit was made at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of periodicals of Missouri for the year 1903. The exhibit consisted of 928 bound volumes and 1,855 publications by Missouri authors. For this exhibit the Society was awarded a grand prize and its Secretary, Professor F. A. Sampson, was given a silver medal.

F. A. S.

THE GERMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ILLINOIS

The German Historical Society of Illinois holds its annual meetings in the building of the Chicago Historical Society, 142 Dearborn Avenue, Chicago.

The Board of Trustees consists of eleven members, of whom six are elected in one year and five in the next year, for a term of two years. The officers, consisting of President, two Vice-presidents, and Treasurer, are elected annually by the members of the Society at their general meeting. The Secretary is chosen by the Board of Trustees.

The Society issues *Die Deutsche-Amerikanischen Geschichtsblätter*, which is a quarterly devoted to researches in the history of the German element in the United States. It is now appearing in its fifth year.

E. M.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Hon. John A. Kasson has presented to the Society an autograph copy of his book on the *Evolution of the Constitution of the United States*.

In the near future there will be published a list of duplicates which the Society has for exchange or sale.

Mr. Reuben Gold Thwaites, Secretary of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, will deliver an address before the State Historical Society of Iowa on the evening of May 16, 1905.

At the January meeting of the Board of Curators an Executive Committee consisting of Curators Shambaugh, Ball, and Loos, was established.

The reports of the Collector, Mr. T. J. Fitzpatrick, show that from December 7, 1904, to March 8, 1905, 2,115 titles were added to the collections of the Society. Of this number 1,394 are classed Iowana.

The Iowa Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution has been admitted as an auxiliary member.

A nearly complete set of bulletins, nos. 1-24, (1897-1905) of The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has been received at the library.

Volume VII of the *Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of Iowa* will soon be distributed. In due time an index to the entire series will be compiled and published by the Society.

An *Iowa Biographical Series* has been planned by the Board of Curators. This series will contain short biographies of leading Iowans. Mr. Johnson Brigham, State Librarian, has already been authorized to prepare a biography of James Harlan.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Curators which was held March 8, 1905, steps were taken for the collection of material along the line of the industrial history of Iowa. The Board is of the opinion that the time has come for the preparation of an Industrial History of Iowa; and it is proposed to take up several lines of special investigation during the coming year.

Professor B. F. Shambaugh gave an address on *Early Iowa* before The Twentieth Century Club, Marshalltown, Iowa, March 24, 1905.

Since the first of January, 1905, the newspaper exchanges have been increased by about sixty papers published in the State, the object being to secure a more adequate representation of all sections of the Commonwealth.

Professor O. H. Cessna of Ames, Iowa, and Mr. O. M. Oleson of Fort Dodge, Iowa, have recently been elected to membership.

A documentary history of political parties in Iowa during the Territorial period is being compiled by the editor of the Society and will be published sometime within the next twelve months. This

will in time be followed by a documentary history of parties during the period from 1846 to the present time.

Professor L. W. Parish, non-resident Curator, attended the Board meeting on March 8, 1905.

The library has been favored by Mr. Philip L. Schuyler with a copy of Mr. Baird Tuckerman's *Life of General Philip Schuyler, 1733-1804*.

With the completion of the *Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of Iowa*, it is the intention of the Board of Curators to begin the publication of the *Executive Journal*. Volume I, covering the period from 1846 to 1857 will probably be issued sometime before January, 1906. The manuscript volumes of the *Executive Journal* are in the archives at Des Moines.

The *Brief History of the Amana Society*, by Dr. Charles Noe, which appeared in the April, 1904, number of THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS has been reprinted in no. 4, volume 52, of the *Saints' Herald*.

Mr. J. W. Ellis, of Maquoketa, has presented to the library a quarto volume of fifty-six pages, written by himself and entitled, *In Bygone Days—Scraps from the Early History of Jackson County, Iowa*.

Reports of the Public Schools of Sioux City, Iowa, 1890-1903, seven volumes, have been received at the library. These reports are for the most part illustrated and vary in size from fifty to over one hundred pages each.

The committee of the American Historical Association which is collecting data for a report on "The Best Methods of Organization and Work on the Part of State and Local Historical Societies" will hold a meeting in the rooms of the State Historical Society of Iowa on May 16, 1905. The members of this committee are Mr. Reuben Gold Thwaites, of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Professor B. F. Shambaugh, of the Iowa Historical Society, and Professor F. L. Riley, of the Mississippi Historical Society.

Among the manuscripts recently deposited with the Society are: *Records of the Zetagathian Literary Society*, 5 vols., 1863-1897; *Records of Irving Literary Society*, 14 vols., 1864-1902; *Iowa City Academy Literary Society Records*, 13 vols., 1876-1898; *Records of the Iowa Engineering Society*, 1886-1888; and *Proceedings of the Surveyors and Engineers Association*, 1885-1886.

Among the publications lately placed upon the shelves of the library are the following: *Early Western Travels*, 1748-1846, to be completed in thirty-one volumes, thirteen of which are now in print; *Philippine Islands*, to be completed in fifty-five volumes, twenty-one of which have been issued; set of *Linnæa*, 1826-1882, in forty-three volumes; *The Davenport Monthly*, vols. 1-3, 1887-1889, now a very rare Iowa item; and *The Gospel Reflector*, edited by B. Winchester, 1841, and formerly owned by President Joseph Smith, of Nauvoo, Illinois.

BUREAU OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

To the Editor of the Iowa Journal of History and Politics:

In response to your request that I make you a short statement concerning the activities of the Bureau of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution, it is perhaps best to refer in the first place to a somewhat similar statement that I prepared for your JOURNAL a year ago, in which I outlined the general plan of organization and our purposes and expectations. But your readers may be especially interested in such portions of the work, that we are beginning, as are likely to be of distinct service to local workers and to the historical societies of the country. The last number of the *American Historical Review* contained an article by Professor C. M. Andrews on materials for American colonial history in British archives. This was a preliminary report prepared for this Bureau and indicates pretty clearly the scope of a class of investigations which we are carrying on. Professor Andrews expects to go abroad next summer and to complete his study, enabling us to prepare a guide to the British archives that ought to be of immense value. In the meantime we are trying to discover what transcripts from British

archives are to be found in this country. A similar work is to be begun this year in the preparation of a guide to the Spanish archives. All historical societies desiring to obtain copies of English or Spanish documents ought in this way to be materially aided, and it is hoped that unnecessary duplication of work will be avoided.

There are at the present time so many societies engaged in collecting and publishing historical material that it seems highly desirable that there should be at some one place information as to the extent and character of the manuscript collections in the possession of the historical societies. We hope to collect such information and, if necessary, visit historical societies to get it. In fact this work is already fairly under way. A few years from now it ought to be possible for us to print an extended report on the manuscript sources of American history in the possession of local societies. This, again, ought to tend to bring about coöperation between the various societies and help them to do their work with more intelligence in their respective fields. It ought also to be of considerable service to historical investigators, no one of whom at the present time has anything like a comprehensive knowledge of the location, extent, and character of these manuscript collections. Incidentally, we are entering upon the enormous, but not disheartening task, of discovering the whereabouts of important manuscripts in the hands of private persons.

It will be readily seen from all this, though I have necessarily been concise and perhaps not very clear in my statement, that our purpose is not to prepare or publish finished books or monographs, but to list materials and to prepare guides in order that the historical workers and the historical societies may more easily know where their sources are and may work more easily and effectively together in the building up of American history and the collection and preservation of its valuable sources. It is not too much, I think, to expect the cordial support of those that have manuscripts in their keeping if they desire them to be of service to the general as well as local investigator.

ANDREW C. McLAUGHLIN

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON
BUREAU OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

THE SIOUX CITY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND LETTERS

The old name of The Sioux City Academy of Science and Letters was "The Sioux City Scientific Association." On the evening of December 23, 1885, a meeting was held at Sioux City in the office of Mr. D. H. Talbot. A temporary organization was effected and a committee was appointed to prepare a constitution and by-laws as well as articles of incorporation. On December 30, 1885, the second meeting was held at which a constitution, by-laws, and articles of incorporation were adopted. The following officers were elected: President, J. C. C. Hoskins; Vice-president, Dr. J. P. Johnson; Recording Secretary, A. W. Erwin; Corresponding Secretary, E. H. Hubbard; and Treasurer, D. H. Talbot.

The society thus formally instituted made immediate preparations for programs by an assignment of papers. Mr. E. H. Hubbard was assigned the first paper on *The Definition of the Word Evolution*. At the meeting of February 10, 1886, seven more papers were assigned to members. These, it is stated, were prepared and read during the first year's course of meetings.

During the first two years the meetings were held at the offices or homes of the members of the Association. As the membership increased a committee was appointed to look for suitable permanent rooms in which to hold meetings. On November 19, 1887, the use of the rooms of the County Superintendent of Schools was granted by the County Board of Supervisors. Here the Association kept its cases of specimens and held its meetings until January 17, 1890, when rooms were secured in the new high school building. Later permanent quarters were obtained in the new library building, where the first meeting was held October 14, 1892.

The first President, Mr. Hoskins, served until January 4, 1889, when Dr. J. P. Johnson was elected. On January 2, 1891, Dr. G. J. Ross was chosen. He in turn was succeeded on January 8, 1892, by Mr. John B. Charles, who served continuously until December 1, 1904, the day of his death.

At the meeting held March 31, 1903, it was proposed to change

the name of the organization to "The Academy of Science and Letters of Sioux City," which proposal was adopted October 27, 1903. At the same meeting the necessary changes in the constitution and by-laws and new articles of incorporation were adopted. In 1904 the present Academy published its first volume of *Proceedings* which contains a choice collection of the contributions of its members.

"The object of the Academy shall be," to quote from its constitution, "first, original investigation in science, history, sociology, and other branches of useful knowledge and the promotion of the study thereof; second, the publication of the Proceedings of the Academy and such original papers as may be deemed profitable; third, the maintenance of a museum and a library and to provide for public meetings for the delivery of papers and lectures."

CONTRIBUTORS

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FRANK EDWARD HORACK, Instructor in Political Science at The State University of Iowa, and Secretary of The State Historical Society of Iowa. [See the Iowa Journal of History and Politics for April, 1903, p. 272.]

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