

## NOTES AND COMMENT

The Iowa Library Association will hold its annual meeting, October 10-12, at Ottumwa. The Society of the Iowa Library School will hold its fourth annual reunion at the same place on Wednesday evening, October 10th.

At Fort Dodge, Iowa, on August 7, 1906, the United States flag was raised on a pole erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution on the spot where a half century before the United States flag had been raised by the U. S. troops.

*The Scottish Historical Review* completes the third volume with the July, 1906, number. Some of the contributions in this issue are: *The Connexion Between Scotland and Man*, by Arthur W. Moore; *The Cardinal and the King's Will*, by Andrew Lang; *The 'Diary' of Sir Thomas Hope (1633-45) Lord Advocate (1616-46)*, by James Colville; *The Early History of the Scots Darien Company*, by Hiram Bingham; and *The Reign of Edward II, as Recorded in 1356, by Sir Thomas Gray in the 'Scalacronica,'* translated by Herbert Maxwell.

The report of the Trustees of the Newberry Library for 1905 gives the number of volumes in the library on January 1, 1906, as 283,458, an increase of 9,766 during the past year. The number of open days was 295; the number of visitors was 84,141; and the number of books consulted aggregated 132,715. The commercial assets of the library are over three hundred thousand dollars; while the expenditure for books and fittings during the past fourteen years exceed a half million.

The earthquake which proved so disastrous to San Francisco occurred on April 18, 1906. On April 21st, Governor Pardee appointed a commission composed of experts to inquire into the earthquake phenomena in all parts of the State of California. The Com-



mission met on April 24th and organized. The preliminary report was submitted May 31, 1906, and published soon after. The Commission will continue its inquiries by instituting a campaign for the collection of all data relating to the earthquake, the final discussion of which will appear in a later report.

Following the visit of President William McKinley at Boone, Iowa, in October, 1898, there was placed on Story street, near the C. & N. W. Ry. crossing, a stone bearing the following inscription:

PRESIDENT  
WILLIAM MCKINLEY  
Addressed the People  
on this spot  
Oct. 11, A. D., 1898

The marking of this historic spot was accomplished through popular subscription inspired by articles which appeared at the time in the *Standard*.

At St. Louis, Missouri, on September 22, 1906, there was unveiled, under the auspices of the Civic League of St. Louis and the Missouri Historical Society, a bronze tablet to the memory of General William Clark. The tablet, which is the gift of the National Bank of Commerce, bears the following inscription:

Here Lived and Died  
WILLIAM CLARK  
1770-1838  
of the  
LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION  
Soldier, Explorer, Territorial Governor, Superintendent  
of Indian Affairs  
Erected September 23, 1906  
The One Hundredth Anniversary of the  
Return of the Expedition

Dr. Reuben Gold Thwaites, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, delivered the principal address, which was on "William Clark, Soldier, Explorer, Statesman."

A memorial stone has been erected in Nevada, Iowa, on the site of the first Nevada home, which was occupied on October 11, 1853,



by Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Alderman. The stone, donated by the Nevada City Federation of Women's Clubs, bears this inscription:

NEVADA  
 Founded Here  
 October 11, 1853, By  
 T. E. & HANNAH ALDERMAN

A full account of the presentation and dedication of the memorial is given in *The Nevada Representative* for Wednesday, September 12, 1906.

Under the auspices of the Stars and Stripes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution there was dedicated at Burlington, Iowa, on Memorial Day, 1906, a monument to John Morgan, a Revolutionary soldier, buried in Aspen Grove Cemetery. The monument was erected by the State of Iowa, aided by the local Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the local Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. The inscription on the monument is as follows:

JOHN MORGAN,  
 A SOLDIER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION,  
 BORN AT GLOUCESTER COUNTY,  
 VIRGINIA, 1758,  
 DIED AT BURLINGTON, IOWA, 1843.  
 SERVED TWO YEARS IN  
 McCLANAHAN'S SEVENTH REGIMENT, VIRGINIA TROOPS  
 WAS IN BATTLES OF BRANDYWINE, AND GERMANTOWN,  
 AND ON VARIOUS TOURS WITH  
 PEYTON AND PAGE'S VIRGINIA MILITIA.  
 ERECTED BY STATE OF IOWA,  
 AIDED BY STARS AND STRIPES CHAPTER,  
 DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION,  
 AND MATTHIES POST, G. A. R.  
 1906.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE BLASHFIELD PAINTING

At the request of the Capitol Commission Mr. Blashfield has prepared the following description of his painting, "Westward," at the head of the grand stairway in the Iowa State House:



The main idea of the picture is a symbolical presentation of the Pioneers led by the spirits of Civilization and Enlightenment to the conquest by cultivation of the Great West. Considered pictorially the canvass shows a "Prairie Schooner" drawn by oxen across the prairie. The family ride upon the wagon or walk at its side. Behind them and seen through the growth of stalks at the right come crowding the other pioneers and later men. In the air and before the wagon are floating four female figures; one holds the shield with the arms of the State of Iowa upon it; one holds a book symbolizing Enlightenment; two others carry a basket and scatter the seeds which are symbolical of the change from wilderness to ploughed fields and gardens that shall come over the prairie. Behind the wagon and also floating in the air, two female figures hold respectively a model of a stationary steam engine and of an electric dynamo to suggest the forces which come with the later men.

In the right hand corner of the picture melons, pumpkins, etc., among which stand a farmer and a girl, suggest that here is the fringe of cultivation and the beginning of the prairie. At the left a buffalo skull further emphasizes this suggestion.

Considered technically, the dominant motive of the composition of the picture is the festoon or Roman garland. This is carried out by the planes of light color, commencing at the left with the group of spirits, carried downward by the white bodice of the girl gathering flowers, onward through the mass of light in the center, to the white overdress of the girl leading the child and finally toward the right and upward, in the figures of the farmer girl and the spirits of Steam and Electricity. The dark accents in the composition are furnished by the three men grouped together and the skirt of the flower-gathering girl.

The hour chosen for the subject is the late afternoon, since Westward suggests into the setting sun. The scheme of color of the picture is based upon this choice of hour, being in the main made up of orange-pink sunset light and its natural complement bluish shadows, with a few spots of dark blue and red-brown given as aforesaid



by the costumes of the men and the skirt of the kneeling girl. For the sake of preserving the integrity of the composition certain liberties have been taken with average probabilities. Thus the driver of the oxen is upon the side which is not conventionally correct, because had he been placed in the correct place in that corner of the canvass he would have thrown the composition out of balance. Advantage was therefore taken of the fact that he might momentarily leave his place. Again, a very small child would not often hurry along keeping up with the striding men and women, but on the other hand the children at times undoubtedly did wish and need for exercise sake to run along awhile with the procession. From the point of view of composition, a small mass or figure was needed just at the point where the child is introduced, a dog would have made a spot of about the right height, but two dogs were already in the picture and a figure of a small child therefore served the purpose better.

These remarks about the ox-driver and the small child are added to bring to the notice of the layman the fact that the artist's first duty to his client is to make his picture artistically good, good that is in composition, drawing, and color. For the sake of his composition he may, and indeed should, take advantage of anything which is possible, avoiding only those things which would seem unreasonable to both common sense and imagination.



### CONTRIBUTORS

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