

A Commonplace Calendar

Through the dog days of August a hundred years ago Territorial politics grew hotter. Neighborhood talk was accented by the Governor's tour, rivalry was intensified by seat-of-government contests, and attention was diverted by a traveling circus.

Wednesday, August 1. G. P. Stiles and S. M. Reno opened a high school in Burlington for "ladies and gentlemen of all ages".

Thursday, August 2. Anticipating building needs at Davenport, Antoine Le Claire and George Davenport had a supply of pine lumber, shingles, window sash, nails, glass, and white lead for sale.

Friday, August 3. G. W. Cook wanted to rent his four-room house on Court Street in Burlington to a "genteel family". § Secretary Conway was in Dubuque. He had no news that Governor Lucas was on his way to Iowa.

Saturday, August 4. The Mississippi was slowly receding after being at its highest stage for several days. § "Like the *Sun*, which distributes its light and heat over the beautiful prairies of Iowa, on a broad, liberal and impartial scale", Andrew Logan published the first issue of the *Iowa*

Sun at Davenport. He hoped his paper, "observing this instructive economy of Nature", would "cast its rays over the moral and political landscape, regardless of those petty interests and local considerations which might contract its beams." § L. Longuemare & Brother started a new grocery and provision store in Dubuque. § Simeon Clark attached the goods of Thomas Hinton for debt.

Sunday, August 5. The Methodists of Burlington were pleased to see the progress being made on their new brick church.

Monday, August 6. Rockingham and Davenport engaged in a spirited election for the county seat of Scott County. Davenport won. § Meanwhile, Bentonsport and Van Buren led several rival places for the seat of justice in Van Buren County.

Tuesday, August 7. Benjamin F. Wallace made a short speech in Burlington. § Mrs. Catharine M. Bronson, aged twenty-three and distinguished for her amiable disposition and "reverence for the principles and duties of revealed religion", died at the home of her father, William Janes, in Burlington. § Mrs. Amelia A. Barton, aged twenty-five, died after a distressing illness of three weeks. She left two small children.

Wednesday, August 8. James T. Campbell announced his intention of publishing the *Iowa Ban-*

ner at Bloomington. He promised to abstain from "partizan vulgarity" and follow "broad and independent principles of free discussion".

Thursday, August 9. A deputation from the Mississippi Emigration Company in Upper Canada was reported to be "now in our country" seeking a location for a colony in the vicinity of Rock Island. § Rainy weather was spoiling grain in the shock. § Chapman and Rorer spoke for three hours to "a large concourse" in Burlington.

Friday, August 10. A "Taxpayer" was concerned about the rumor that two Dubuque County commissioners were aliens. His fears were unfounded. § Protracted meetings of the Rock Creek church began at the Rock Spring schoolhouse.

Saturday, August 11. The acceptance of Miners' Bank notes at par by two Saint Louis brokers was good news. § John Wilson announced that his new steam ferry boat would soon be ready. § Recent rains caused the rivers to rise again. The Mississippi was "in excellent navigable order". § A rumor that Conway might convene the Legislative Assembly at Davenport worried the Burlington editor. § Davis Gillilan attached "the goods and chattels, rights and credits" of Thomas Hinton.

Sunday, August 12. Martin A. Britton, a

Farmington merchant, married Miss Louisa A. Rollins. § James M. Hendricks lost "a large red deerskin pocket book" in Burlington.

Monday, August 13. Resumption of specie payments by Missouri banks was hailed as a sign of better times. § Corn was selling for a dollar a bushel, flour for ten dollars a barrel, and wages ranged from twenty dollars a month for farm laborers to three dollars a day for mechanics. § Wheat and oats were reported to be "unusually fine this season, and corn promises to be equally so."

Tuesday, August 14. Secretary Conway went to Burlington prepared to issue an election order. He wrote to Albert M. Lea at Saint Louis asking him to delay his survey of the Missouri-Iowa boundary until an Iowa commissioner could be appointed.

Wednesday, August 15. Governor Lucas arrived at Burlington. Secretary Conway left for Davenport. § The Governor's proclamation apportioning members of the legislature fixed September 10th as election day. § Ann Maria Langton notified Daniel Langton to appear in the September term of court and show cause why her divorce petition for "extreme cruelty, and willful desertion" should not be granted.

Thursday, August 16. Settlers formed an as-

sociation at Rock Springs to protect their claims against speculators at the land sale. § The opening of the Burlington land office was delayed because the plats had not been received.

Friday, August 17. A caucus at the house of J. A. Burchard five miles east of Davenport nominated candidates for local offices.

Saturday, August 18. The Mississippi was falling rapidly. § J. A. Hedges had clean new wheat seed for sale at his mill on Crow Creek. § An old bay mare strayed into the yard of Elihu Alvord at Long Grove. § John King declined to run for the first legislature because he did not feel able to discharge such important work. § The Dubuque trustees pledged the credit of the town for the digging of three wells. § John H. Garrigues was "heartily tired" of dunning the citizens of Burlington "for the last two or three months, for their Taxes". § Governor Lucas started on his tour of the Territory.

Sunday, August 19. The Iowa Temperance Society met at the Methodist Church in Dubuque.

Monday, August 20. Governor Lucas talked politics with many citizens of Dubuque. § Scott & Taylor still advertised "30 KEGS fresh BUTTER" received March 31st on the *Cygnets*.

Tuesday, August 21. The Arena circus with the "most beautiful horses", the best riders, "Jack

May, the humorous and facetious Clown", and a military band performed at Farmington.

Wednesday, August 22. A convention in the Dubuque district was proposed to nominate "our most *able, intelligent, efficient, and honest men*" for the legislature. § The circus showed at West Point.

Thursday, August 23. A caucus at Bellevue expressed "unbounded confidence" in John H. Rose for the legislature. § Taking advantage of the crowd attracted by the circus, Wallace, Rorer, and Chapman electioneered in Fort Madison.

Friday, August 24. John S. David auctioned lot 316 in Burlington. § The Iowa Thespian Association met at the Shakespeare House for important business. § Residents of Augusta saw the circus.

Saturday, August 25. The trustees of the Burlington Academy & Teacher's Seminary rented a "commodious and comfortable house" and hired J. P. Stewart to teach two terms of five months each. § Levi Whittle offered to bet \$500 that Boanerges could beat old Blue Buck running 300 yards any day at Dehague's. § Andrew Logan printed the Constitution of the United States in his *Iowa Sun* because public officers were often ignorant of its provisions and put "vexatious and wild constructions" on this "Palladium of our lib-

erties". § Governor Lucas arrived in Davenport "accompanied by two respectable and intelligent young gentlemen from Cincinnati. § The circus clown made the children of Burlington laugh.

Sunday, August 26. The Reverend Mr. Leonard preached at the Academy in Burlington. § Peter H. Engle was ill due to nearly drowning recently in the Wapsipinicon River.

Monday, August 27. After a long illness, Joseph Jennings died of "pulmonary consumption" at the age of twenty-two. § Candidate Van Rensselaer Tompkins of Montpelier, Muscatine County, favored county proprietorship of county seat towns. § The circus riders performed at Wapello.

Tuesday, August 28. The Mississippi was falling about a foot a day. § Governor Lucas spent the day at Rockingham.

Wednesday, August 29. A "Ladies' travelling basket containing various articles of clothing" was lost between Danville and Burlington. § Though compelled to withdraw from the campaign for Congress because of "unexpected and unavoidable changes" in business and health, Milo H. Prentice hoped his friends would vote for a candidate who "loves Democracy and hates monopolies of all kinds, and particularly Banking." § Bloomington saw the circus.

Thursday, August 30. The Governor's tour of the Territory ended at Burlington early in the morning. § At the Wisconsin Hotel, 121 citizens voted to support Amos Ladd instead of W. M. Devoe for county commissioner. § The circus performed at Rockingham.

Friday, August 31. Samuel Bronson, aged thirty, survived his wife, Catharine, less than a month. § The upper tier of seats at the circus was well filled with Davenport ladies.

JOHN ELY BRIGGS