

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE

Iowa Soldiers' Orphans Home,

FOR THE TWO YEARS

ENDING NOVEMBER 1, 1875,

TO THE

SIXTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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DES MOINES:  
R. P. CLARKSON, STATE PRINTER.  
1876.

## TRUSTEES.

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WM. H. LEAS, President.....Des Moines.  
SETH P. BRYANT, Secretary.....Davenport.  
GEO. B. VAN SAUN, Treasurer.....Cedar Falls.  
J. CLINTON OTIS.....Glenwood.

### OFFICERS.

#### CEDAR FALLS HOME.

HENRY F. TUCKER.....Saperintendent.  
MRS. H. F. TUCKER.....Matron.  
S. N. PIERCE, M. D.....Physician.

#### DAVENPORT HOME.

S. W. PIERCE.....Saperintendent.  
MRS. F. W. PIERCE.....Matron.  
W. F. PECK, M. D.....Physician

## REPORT.

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*To the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

The Fifth Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home, embracing a period of two years, ending November 1st, 1875, is herewith presented, in pursuance of law.

We respectfully ask your consideration of it, and no less so of the reports of Superintendents Tucker and Pierce. The work done by them, in their respective fields of labor, has been thorough and practical.

We call your attention to the special report of S. W. Pierce, Esq., temporary superintendent of the Glenwood branch of the Home, during the month of January last, with such appended statistics as are requisite to show the nature, extent and completeness of the work designed to be accomplished at the several branches of the Home; and the faithful and satisfactory manner in which the trust has been performed.

We commend, also, the reports of the physicians in charge. Drs. Peck and Pierce are gentlemen of high standing in the circle of their acquaintance—none more eminent, in their profession, in the State, or more successful in practice.

### CHILDRENS' HEALTH.

The unusual good health of the children may be attributed to the mutual efforts of physicians and superintendents. The latter in providing substantial food, and in great variety, regularity of meals; periodical bathing, out door exercises, and wholesome family government

Herewith also find the Treasurer's Report:

### TREASURER'S REPORT.

The statement as compiled, is concise and correct, and compared with the statement next preceding this, shows a *decrease* in expenditures, on account of the childrens' support, of nearly \$43,000. The appropriation of \$10 a month for the childrens' support, includes also, the payment of all salaries—the necessary *repairs* and the purchase of live stock, agricultural implements, etc.

The special appropriation of \$1,700, voted by the last General Assembly for an additional steam boiler and other improvements to the Cedar Falls Home, was expended under the supervision of Mr. Van Saun, the resident trustee, and is fully accounted for in his report.

#### NUMBER OF CHILDREN.

The number of children present at the Home on the 1st of November, 1873, was as follows:

Cedar Falls.....	256
Davenport.....	154
Glenwood.....	98
Total.....	508

The number present November 1, 1875:

Cedar Falls.....	189
Davenport.....	109
Total.....	298

#### GLENWOOD HOME.

We submit a comparative statement, taken from the several reports of Mr. Stephens, late superintendent of this branch, of the number of children reported to have been present at the following dates, with the number which the Board of Trustees, *actually* found in attendance, at the same periods:

	Reported Present.	Actually Present.
June 1, 1874.....	93	
November 1, 1874.....	81	61
December 9, 1874.....	87	58
January 8, 1875.....	68	52

The names of the counties represented, and the number of children from each, together with the respective number of boys and girls, average attendance, physical, mental and moral culture, course of instruction with their progress in studies, garden products, the work of the children, clothing, diet, inventory of the real and personal property, government, rules, vacations, roll of employes with their salaries, daily exercises, industries, financial statements and other valuable information, to which we again direct your special attention, are correctly and amply set forth, under proper headings, in the Reports of the Superintendents. To all of which, the Trustees most unreservedly subscribe.

It is a source of pleasure for the Board to announce the Homes free of debt. Claims, of whatever nature, are paid during each month.

#### LIVING.

The tables of the Homes, if indeed, they do not surpass, will compare with the most favorable of our State institutions.

#### CLOTHING.

The clothing furnished the children is of good quality, and well suited to the varying seasons of the year.

In addition to the ordinary information submitted by the superintendents in their biennial reports, we have this year, inventories of the personal property of the Home, garden products, and supplies in store, which, no doubt, will be items of interest.

#### VALUE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY.

Value of personalty at the Cedar Falls Home.....	\$9,174.64
Value of personalty at the Davenport Home.....	15,403.30

#### INDUSTRIAL PURSUITS.

An appropriation of \$1,200 was made by the last General Assembly for the establishment of *industrial pursuits*.

The subject has given the trustees a great deal of solicitude, and after much thought they concluded to let the money remain in the State treasury and report their conclusions.

The following are among the reasons which influenced their course:

The amount was too small to afford a division among the *several* branches. Again, it was difficult to determine how they should teach

the various trades with *so few* children of suitable age and bent of mind for any one pursuit, for the reason that it would require a skilled person in each of these trades, as a teacher. Further, it was not deemed good policy to make the trial and necessary expenditure, even at *one* of the branches, unless the Home was to become a permanent institution.

The labor now and heretofore performed by the boys has mainly been gardening, house-work and chores, except in a limited extent, bracket or scroll work, which indeed, has been highly creditable to them. The girls have been employed at indoor household duties, practical work with the needle and sewing machine, and fancy needle work, and worsted and card board work.

#### TRADES.

We are of the opinion that the industries should be established at the Homes, and for your guidance name such as may be adopted with profit to the children, viz: Caning chairs, telegraphy, tin-smithing, tailoring, shoe-making, cutting and fitting, childrens' carriages, toy wagons, carts &c., harness making, trellis work for flower pots with sash and blind making, broom making, carpentering, baking and knitting.

Mark the encouraging sentiment of Superintendent Tucker of the Cedar Falls Home: "The lawn produces all the hay we consume—the garden nearly all the vegetables." Open the doors of our Home to the indigent children of the State, and with the industries or additional land for farm labor, and very soon the children will support themselves. But more on this subject hereafter.

#### LIBRARY FUND.

The money appropriated for library books has been expended by the Superintendents, under the supervision of the Secretary of the Board.

The library at the Davenport Home numbers 1500 volumes, and is valued at \$875.00.

That at the Cedar Falls Home, 1000 volumes, and valued at \$900.00.

The selection has always been made personally; the books are found to be well adapted to the wants of the children, and consequently are sought and read with eagerness.

It is the duty of the Board, by every means in their power to make the library and children, mutual, daily companions. To this end the

libraries should be augmented every year. An appropriation, is, therefore asked, for this purpose. By reason of the natural decrease of numbers, the Homes as such, cannot be creditably maintained until the meeting of the next General Assembly, without an increased monthly allowance or by consolidation of the several branches.

#### CLOSING THE HOME.

Superintendent Tucker expresses the opinion that his branch might be closed in the summer of 1877, submitting of course, that the present allowance will be sufficient to carry the children to that period. The same view is entertained by Superintendent Pierce with reference to the Davenport branch.

By reason of this contemplated contingency, it will be necessary for the present General Assembly to make suitable provision for the remnant of children in the homes at that date.

#### OPEN THE HOME TO THE ORPHAN POOR, GENERALLY.

We believe, by the natural love and sympathy we bear to the *orphan child*, that we would be recreant to our duty, if we omitted at this time and in this manner to press the following subject upon your serious attention. The State of Iowa, above all the states of the Union, because, mainly, from her freedom from debt, can well afford to provide for and foster her indigent orphan children. The sentiment is not claimed as new. The trustees, in their biennial report of 1874, called the attention of the last legislature to it.

The true wealth of a community is not in its storehouses of wheat and corn; nor in its factories and mechanic arts alone; but in the proper culture of its children, and in their preparation for the real and useful duties of life. It will not be denied that truancy exists to a fearful extent everywhere, and that truancy begets idleness and crime.

Let us ask ourselves the question, how can this condition of moral delinquency be stayed? Will the constituted authorities of the State take hold of it? We believe that they should, and that they will.

Open the doors of the soldiers' orphans' home to this class of children, and you will confer not only individual blessings, as good seed scattered over the land; but in the continued development and education of the mind and heart, add fresh honors to the proud and enviable position already attained by Iowa among the states of the Union.

You will also relieve county authorities. 'Tis true, a counter argument, with some degree of plausibility, might be adduced based on

the theory that if the counties can and are willing to take care of their needy orphans, there would be no use for a State Home.

It is known, however, to most of the members of this General Assembly, that this class of children, with their mothers, are supported at their homes, often, in a very meager manner. We believe this class of children, especially in our larger towns, where they run the streets, would be infinitely better off, at a home where wise parental government, love, patience, industry and religious influences prevail.

We ask the same enlarged view and sympathy for the citizens' indigent orphan child, that was so beneficently extended to the soldiers' orphan. That the former may also be better prepared to become useful men and women—raised alike to a condition in life to meet the trials of the world on an equal footing with the most highly favored. You then create within these children, a sentiment strong in gratitude, and no less of fidelity to the State.

#### SUGGESTION.

Anticipating your favorable action on the foregoing suggestion, we respectfully recommend, for your consideration some such bill as that introduced at the last session of the legislature, by Senator Murphy of Scott county: Senate File No. 140, "An act to enlarge the powers of the Trustees of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home."

We doubt not the intention of the author of the bill was, to provide a home and school to every poor orphan child in the State.

The most undoubted provision should be made for the support of the children. Men, and sometimes communities, differ, through prejudice, or otherwise, on questions of policy. Some counties might omit or positively refuse to make the necessary levy for the children's support. Therefore, in cases of such delinquency, it should be made the duty of the State Board of Equalization, to make it for such recusant county or counties.

#### MONUMENTS.

A prevailing sentiment with the Trustees has ripened into a strong desire to erect some work of art as a memorial tribute to the *deceased orphans* of the Home. There lie buried in the Cemetery at Davenport, fifty-one; at Cedar Falls, fourteen; at Glenwood, one.

We respectfully ask you to provide suitable monuments to mark the graves of these *wards* of the State—thereby finishing the work so gratefully begun eleven years ago.

The fathers of these children, in obedience to their country's call, parted with all the dearest interests of earth—wife, children, and home, leaving embarrassed estates, and suffered death, that our then imperiled nation might be born to a new and permanent life. We ask your zealous concurrence in the above.

#### BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.

At Glenwood, in Mills county, the State owns sixteen acres of land under good fence and cultivation.

The building is a large brick, three stories, including the basement.

The situation is high and airy, and commands a lovely view of the town nestling in the *glen*.

It is capable of accommodating about one hundred and twenty children, including room for the superintendent and family. The barn and out buildings are dilapidated.

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#### DAVENPORT HOME.

This Home, is what, during our National struggle, was known as Camp Kinsman, embracing forty acres of land; situated just a pleasant evening's drive from Davenport.

The tenement houses, twenty-seven in number, forming a hollow square around a plat of six acres, are of wood—very comfortable and in good repair.

The buildings, walls and fences are of a rural white, suggestive of gladsome cheer and decided home comforts.

Four hundred or more children can be accommodated here.

## CEDAR FALLS HOME.

The most attractive object about this thriving town, and one which awakens feelings of true home comfort, is the Soldiers' Orphans' Home. It is a large and handsome four-story brick building, occupying a position near the center of a forty-acre tract of land—the most commanding in the vicinity—situate about one mile from the town. The building is heated with steam, and throughout is always comfortable.

It has ample room for two hundred and forty children.

The barn is good and large enough for the present.

An appropriation will be required for some needed improvements to this branch, which will be made apparent to the Legislative Committee.

## INSURANCE.

If it is the policy of the State to insure her property, we ask an appropriation of about five hundred dollars to insure each branch for a term of at least two years, including the Glenwood buildings. We make the customary request for special appropriations which will be *actually* needed. For others, hereafter to be designated, *only, however*, upon condition that the Home shall become a *permanent* institution.

## SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS.

We respectfully ask special appropriations for the objects hereafter stated, and refer you to the Superintendent's Reports for the necessary information, viz :

## FOR THE CEDAR FALLS HOME.

Engine and boiler.....	\$950.00
Washing-machine .....	300.00
Brick water-closet .....	650.00
Plumbing .....	830.00
Cesspool and excavating.....	550.00
Ceiling and painting eight wards in the main building.....	500.00
Furniture .....	1,500.00
Lumber and carpenters' work, and other repairs.....	800.00
Library .....	200.00
Enlarging and improving laundry.....	720.00
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	\$7,300.00

## UPON CONDITION.

For industries, or for land.....	\$5,000.00
For insurance .....	500.00
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	\$5,500.00

## FOR THE DAVENPORT HOME.

For insurance.....	\$ 500.00
Steam fitting and washing machines for laundry.....	200.00
Building fences.....	200.00
Painting, repairing and whitewashing.....	200.00
Library.....	200.00
Furniture, including pumps.....	1,500.00
Lumber, hardware, carpenters' salary, and general repairs on building.....	2,500.00—\$5,300.00

Should the Home be made a permanent institution, we desire a special appropriation for the following objects:

A new oven.....	\$ 700.00
For the industries or for land.....	5,000.00

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We express our sincerest obligations to certain railroad companies of Iowa for reduced fare as well as for gratuitous transportation of the children of the Home. We especially mention the generosity of the C., R. I. & P. and the C., B. & Q. Railroad Companies for the freedom of their cars to fourteen children, from the Glenwood Home, on the 1st of February, 1875, to Davenport. And to Dr. Burtis for a free breakfast upon their arrival at his hotel. These exhibitions of sympathy for our soldiers' orphan children are honorable to the benefactors, and are fully appreciated by the trustees.

## GLENWOOD HOME.

The Board of Trustees met in regular session at the Glenwood Home on the 9th day of November, 1874. At this meeting we became aware of irregularities existing in its management. Not the least of which, were claims outstanding, against this branch, aggregating about eleven hundred dollars, contracted by Superintendent Stephens. 'Tis true, the debts were contracted on behalf of the Home; nevertheless, were contracted without the knowledge or consent of the trustees. At least, *they* were wholly ignorant of the magnitude of this aggregate debt, if Mr. Stephens' stated official reports were to be their guide.

SIXTY-ONE pupils were found at the Home, notwithstanding but a few days before, Mr. Stephens had reported *eighty-one* children present. These, among other things, created a doubt in our minds as to the fidelity of the Superintendent.

#### INVESTIGATION.

An investigation was at once resolved upon, and accordingly we assembled at the same place on the 3rd of December, 1874.

The law makes it the duty of the superintendent to draw the monthly support for the children, on sworn statements made to the Auditor of State, of the number of children supported at the home, during the preceding month. See section 1624, chapter 4, Code of 1873.

Upon such statements Mr. Stephens had drawn as follows:

For June, 1874, 93 children.....	\$930.00
For July, 1874, 94 children.....	940.00
For August, 1874, 92 children.....	920.00
For September, 1874, 88 children.....	880.00
For October, 1874, 81 children.....	810.00

By examining the *clothing record* for 1874, we found the names of *twenty* children who had been absent from the home since the close of the school, on the 9th day of June, and were still absent. A positive order from the board to Mr. Stephens, on the 9th of November, to call home the absent ones on or before the 1st of December, failed to bring back more than *four* of the twenty.

The propriety of closing this branch was discussed at this meeting.

#### RESIGNATION OF MR. STEPHENS.

Before the close of December, 1874, Mr. Stephens' resignation was requested, and by him as promptly submitted, to take effect on the 1st of January, 1875. He remained in charge a few days longer. S. W. Pierce, Esq., Superintendent of the Davenport Home, was chosen to fill the vacancy.

We pause here to say that great credit is due to him for his unremitting labors. Classes were consolidated; the children thoroughly cleansed; expenses curtailed; claims to a considerable amount paid off; and the children prepared for removal to their respective homes.

#### INVENTORY TAKEN.

An inventory of all the personal effects of the home was taken, and recorded in book "C," to be found with S. P. Bryant, Secretary of the Board. In this book will also be found a list of creditors of the Glenwood branch, and *minutes* of the executive committee; the financial condition of the same; the inventory, sale of the effects, and payment of debts, and reports of the several parties concerned, etc.

#### MR. STEPHENS REFUSES TO SURRENDER THE PAPERS, ETC.

At our first settlement with Mr. Stephens he refused to surrender to the executive committee the correspondence, clothing record for 1874, bills, vouchers, and his bank book—assuring the committee that his right to retain them was unquestioned, as he had consulted his lawyers. In justice to Mr. Stephens, we should state his reasons for such refusal, which were: that as he had been assailed by the newspapers he would have these evidences, in case of prosecution.

#### HOME AT GLENWOOD CLOSED.

On the 29th of January, 1875, settlement was made with S. W. Pierce, Esq.,—the Home at Glenwood closed, and fourteen children, with consent of their parents or guardians, were conveyed to the Davenport Home.

#### SALE OF THE EFFECTS.

After due public notice, sale was made of the entire effects of the Glenwood branch. All liabilities, of whatever character, liquidated, and the surplus of cash, viz: \$339.08 handed over, with the report, to the trustees, on the 10th of March, 1875, then in session at the Home at Cedar Falls.

#### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Here find a statement of the receipt of balances in the hands of Superintendent S. W. Pierce, and from sales of the personal effects, with a statement of expenditures and vouchers submitted by the executive committee.

The work of said committee was fully endorsed.

Outstanding debts of the Glenwood Home, on the 1st of January, 1875, as reported by Thomas L. Stephens, late Superintendent.

## LIABILITIES OF GLENWOOD BRANCH.

E. R. S. Woodrow, for boots and shoes .....	\$ 78.99
E. R. S. Woodrow, groceries .....	21.50
A. J. Russell, general merchandize .....	3.40
Robert Hale, grocer for November .....	142.26
Robert Hale, grocer for December .....	94.28
D. B. Lufkin, meat for November .....	55.02
D. B. Lufkin, meat for December .....	20.41
L. W. Russell .....	16.33
Clarkson Bro's., Des Moines .....	5.00
J. V. Hinchman, drugs for November .....	15.45
J. V. Hinchman, drugs for December .....	3.50
Charles Faxon, general merchandize for November .....	149.90
Charles Faxon, general merchandize for December .....	39.30
Hale & Vaughn, confections .....	16.50
Wilkie & Co., bakers .....	105.00
C. W. Dyers, grocer .....	11.55
Dr. Shriner, dentist .....	5.00
J. P. Jackson, wood .....	24.00
Wick & Donaldson, drugs .....	4.80
James Scott, milk .....	13.27
Mrs. M. Adams, seamstress .....	5.40
Dr. J. A. Donaldson, physician .....	2.50
Butler Scott, farmer .....	2.00
J. T. Williams, farmer .....	4.00
Frank Files, farmer .....	60
Mrs. Proudfit, teacher .....	29.75
Spencer Stout, cook .....	15.00
Mrs. Martin, manager .....	12.00
Mrs. Gaywood, manager .....	12.00
Mrs. Wiley, manager .....	12.00
Mrs. French, laundress .....	8.00
Mrs. Tibbett, nurse .....	8.00
James Scott, milk for December .....	21.24
McDowell & Hale, flour .....	28.20
Thomas L. Stephens, for furniture used up in the Home .....	18.85
Nonpariel Print .....	5.75
Total .....	\$1,013.75

## FIRST STEPS TO THE INVESTIGATION, ETC.

In the administration of our duty to manage the Home and its interests, we believed clearly in our right to close this branch, which we did on the 29th of January, 1875.

No legal authority seemed to exist conferring this right upon the board of trustees, except by implication, that as we have the right to

control the Home, we have an equal and undoubted right to discontinue one of the branches, when it seems clear that circumstances demand it.

## THE OPINIONS OF GOV. CARPENTER AND ATTORNEY GENERAL OBTAINED.

Before acting in the premises we consulted Governor C. C. Carpenter and Hon. M. E. Cutts, Attorney General. These gentlemen, though not affirming our positive right under the statute, were of the opinion that the right was admissible. Their judgment differing very little from our own.

On the 10th of March, 1875, the executive committee of the Glenwood branch made their report to the trustees, then in session. The following is a general view of the report, as recorded in the minutes of the board.

## EXTRACT FROM THE SECRETARY'S MINUTES.

"The resignation of Thomas L. Stephens, superintendent of the Glenwood Home, was accepted, to take effect on the 1st January, 1875. That S. W. Pierce, Esq., was placed temporarily in charge; that for certain reasons stated in the report and fully endorsed by the board, the Glenwood branch was closed on the 29th January; that all the children then present (36) were promptly returned to their homes, except fourteen; that these were commended to the executive committee of the Davenport Home for admission; that the personal effects of the Glenwood branch were duly inventoried in book 'C'; that to pay off debts contracted by Mr. Stephens, a sale was agreed upon—due notice given in the newspapers and by posting bills; that the goods were sold on the 20th and 27th of February at public outcry, in Glenwood, with the following result, viz:

## STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

Received of S. W. Pierce, January 29, 1875.....	\$ 117.01
Cash from private sales, as per invoice in book D, in the secretary's hands.....	287.50
Cash from 1st day's sale.....	401.15
Cash from 2nd day's sale.....	305.23
Cash goods sold to Davenport Home.....	78.55
Cash goods subsequently sold.....	74.85
Total.....	\$1,244.94

## CONTRA.

Cash paid to E. R. S. Woodrow for boots and shoes.....	\$ 78 99
Cash to Robert Hale, groceries.....	142 25
Cash to D. B. Lufkin, meat.....	55 02
Cash to D. B. Lufkin, meat.....	20 41
Cash to Charles Faxon, dry goods.....	149 00
Cash to R. Wilke, baker.....	108 00
Cash to expenses of sales.....	100 52
Cash to the President for telegrams.....	6 65
Cash, services of Mr. Otis the resident Trustee, attending to sales.....	75 00
Cash, vouchers from F. E. Stephens.....	50 50
Cash to J. V. Hinchman.....	95
Cash to L. B. Hixon.....	2 25
Cash to Russell & King.....	1 00
Cash to Mills & Cilley.....	9 88
Cash for repairs to Home.....	9 37—\$ 905 88
Balance.....	339 08

## HOME AT GLENWOOD LEASED.

We leased the Glenwood Home, with the sixteen acres of land, at three dollars per acre, to L. B. Hixon, under a written contract, for one year.

## REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE DAVENPORT HOME,

*Made to the Board of Trustees, March 10, 1875.*

GENTLEMEN: We beg leave to report that on the 30th of January, 1875, we received into the Davenport Home fourteen children, whose names and postoffice address are herewith given, from the Glenwood branch just closed, without the formalities prescribed by law, viz:

## NAMES OF CHILDREN TRANSFERRED TO THE DAVENPORT HOME.

Bessie Norris and Belle Norris; guardian, Mrs. Laura Young, Glenwood, Iowa.

Francis Millard and William H. Millard; guardian, Mrs. Mary Smith, Lincoln, Nebraska.

William R. Pettit and Thomas H. Pettit; guardian, Mrs. N. P. Pettit, Kansas City, Missouri.

Charles H. Bently, Fred. C. Bently, and Rhoda Bently; guardian, Mrs. Helen Bently, Glenwood, Iowa.

Howard E. Sunday and William A. Sunday; guardian, Walter Evans, Ames, Iowa.

Frank Oliver; guardian, H. H. O'Neal, Chariton, Iowa.

Louise Peters; guardian, Mrs. Johanna Peters, Grand Island, Nebraska.

Willie Collins; mother, Mrs. Sage, Missouri Valley.

—Fourteen children.

They were quite destitute of clothing, and, coming too late, were not listed for the month of February, for support. We therefore recommend the usual monthly allowance for them, out of the auditor's warrant, of \$440.00 issued to the superintendent of the Glenwood Home, for children's support.

[Signed.]

WM. H. LEAS,  
S. P. BRYANT,

*Ex Committee.*

## CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, we claim to have made a plain narrative of facts concerning the conduct and removal of Thomas L. Stephens, Esq., from the office of superintendent, and with our reasons for closing the Glenwood branch of the home, leaving conclusions to be drawn by others.

## DEATH OF J. CLINTON OTIS, TRUSTEE.

Amid the preparation of an official State document, we are constrained to pause before a clouded sun.

We have just been reminded of a sad visitation to our board. J. Clinton Otis, the trustee residing at Glenwood, is dead. It is meet, therefore, that you should be apprised of the loss to the state, and that we should mingle our feelings of sympathy with the bereaved family of our esteemed colleague.

He died at his home on the 18th inst., of consumption. His health became so much enfeebled, that for several years last past, he was unable to speak above a whisper. He endeared himself to us by his christian deportment and devotion to duty.

His views concerning the affairs of the home were sometimes at variance with ours; but these differences were always discussed by him with the utmost freedom, candor, and honesty of purpose; defending his position with great practical wisdom and discrimination. And we take pleasure in saying that he never for a moment lost sight of the proprieties of cultivated life, or the rights due to others. And throughout all our official relations the utmost good feeling prevailed. His counsels were always appreciated—his example will long be felt and remembered by us as worthy of imitation.

SETH P. BRYANT, *Secretary.*

WM. H. LEAS, *President.*

## REPORT

## OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

## IOWA SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME,

AT CEDAR FALLS,

FOR THE BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 1, 1875.

*To the Honorable Body of Trustees of the Iowa Soldier' Orphans Homes:*

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to submit for your consideration the fifth biennial report of the Soldiers' Orphans Home at Cedar Falls.

The history of these two years is replete with evidences of the beneficent care of Him whose providence extends to the most minute concerns of every human life. I cannot forbear to mention, gratefully, that peace, health, contentment and prosperity have been constant guests.

Your attention is invited to the following tabulated statistics of attendance:

In attendance November 1, 1875.....	256
Admitted on application.....	86
Admitted after prolonged absence.....	34
Aggregate attendance.....	376
Discharged on account of age.....	53
Discharged by request.....	133
Died.....	1
Preent attendance.....	189
Number 16 years of age.....	24
Number 15 years of age.....	20