

lency to the several State officers, to the members of the State Legislature, to officers of the several counties, and finally, to the citizens of the State in behalf of the "Iowa State Historical Society," as an eminently essential element in the educational department of the State. Investigation of the cause itself, as well as the manner in which the Society conducts its interest, is earnestly solicited. Wherever such investigation is made there can be no doubt that the result will be as favorable to its interests as the most sanguine of its friends can desire.

T. S. Parvin.

S. W. Huff.

M. L. Fisher.

F. H. Lee.

O. M. Spencer.

George W. McCleary.

William Crum.

Silas Totten.

George H. Jerome.

W. H. Trusdell.

FOURTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF CURATORS

OF THE

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TO THE

GOVERNOR

AND

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

DES MOINES:

F. W. PALMER, STATE PRINTER.

'1864.

REPORT.

To His Excellency Samuel J. Kirkwood, Governor, and to the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:—

GENTLEMEN: In obedience to the requirements of an act of the General Assembly, granting to the State Historical Society the sum of five hundred dollars annually, the Board of Curators would present the following Biennial Report for the period terminating December 1st., 1863. The period embraced in this report has been one of unparelled interest to us as citizens of this commonwealth, and of the great nation of which this is a component part. Almost every day of the past two years has come to us burdened with events most nearly concerning the existence and perpetuity of our free institutions—armies have been raised, and their thinned ranks again and again recruited; battles have been fought, victories won, and defeats sustained. On the great subjects of human freedom and the union of the States, public opinion has been day by day undergoing a grand crystalization, too grand for us to realize in the present age. In all this Iowa has borne an honorable and distinguished part. From her fertile prairies have gone forth 60,000 of her sons to battle for their country's flag, and their valor has been acknowledged in the most complimentary manner by the officers of every army in which they have served. Their deeds of daring and heroic suffering constitute, even now, the pride and glory of our State; while next to these free institutions they have periled their lives to save, their history will be the most precious legacy that can be bequeathed to posterity. To us as officers of the State Historical Society, we feel that the past two years have come freighted to us with heavy responsibilities. Now, if ever, are to be collected those materials which shall constitute a complete history of the present times, for the actors in these stirring scenes are passing away with a mournful rapidity, and with them is too often lost to history that which should have enriched it. In view of the importance of this subject, the Curators

early adopted the plan of preferring a written request to the Chaplains of the various regiments of Iowa soldiers, that they would keep a minute and accurate journal for their regiments, in which they would record the various actions and marchings in which they might be engaged, and also all the little interesting incidents of camp and field. And whenever it has been possible, we have endeavored to press this matter upon their attention by personal interviews. Many other officers and intelligent privates have also been requested to give us, from time to time, an account of their doings, and to send to us such trophies and mementoes as may come into their possession. In many cases we have substantial reasons for believing that these requests are being complied with, and there is now accumulating in our halls quite a collection of flags, both loyal and rebel, and trophies of various sorts, many of them having a stirring individual history connected with them, as will be seen by reference to another part of this report.

Yet it is greatly to be regretted that many of those most actively engaged in the work of putting down the rebellion, are not awake to the importance of preserving the records we wish, thus greatly enhancing our labor, and leaving to be done by other hands that which they alone can do perfectly. In the third chapter of the constitution or the State Historical Society, it is declared to be a part of its object to "diffuse and publish information relating to the description and history of Iowa." From the lack of adequate funds this has been to a great degree impossible heretofore, and a large number of histories of counties and other papers of a historic character, have accumulated on our shelves; but as there was a small surplus in the treasury at the close of 1862, it was thought proper to commence the publication of a quarterly magazine devoted to this object, to be published in octavo form, each number to consist of not less than forty-eight pages, and the number of copies issued to be five hundred. Accordingly, the first number of the "Annals of the State Historical Society of Iowa" made its appearance in the month of April, 1863, and the last number for the year is just now issued. A copy of the same is herewith furnished. Owing to the limited state of our funds, it was deemed necessary to charge for this magazine the sum of fifty cents per annum; we had hoped that the returns from the subscription list would, in a large measure, cover the cost

of publication, but as we have not been able to employ an agent, hitherto, to canvas for subscribers, the list is yet but limited, and the returns of course meagre. An agent has now been employed to undertake this work, and we have little doubt but that his success will be such as to justify our first calculations. The main part of the "Annals" during the past year has been devoted to the history of Scott county, by Hon. Willard Barrows, of Davenport, a production of great value and interest to the student of the early history of Iowa. As soon as this is completed, it is intended to take the history of other counties; and so proceed as fast as our means will justify, to give publicity to all manuscripts of historic interest which are, or may hereafter come into our possession. We should not omit to mention that each number of the magazine contains a steel engraving of some of the pioneer citizens of the State. By reference to former reports of this committee it will be seen that it is a part of our plan to secure a portrait and picture gallery, in which shall appear the portraits of the early settlers and distinguished citizens of Iowa, and "views" of her landscapes, cities, etc. This plan was early adopted, and there is now in our possession a large number of photographs, daguerreotypes and painted portraits of the kind desired. Promises have long since been received of portraits of all the Governors of the State and Territory, but they are not yet fulfilled. During the past two years special efforts have been made to obtain portraits of all the commissioned officers of the State who have entered the United States service, and considerable success has attended the effort. We now have in our gallery the photographs of a majority of the Iowa officers of the rank of Colonel and upward.

Mr. J. C. Buttrey, engraver, of New York City, has donated to the Society more than one hundred fine steel engravings of the leading civilians and military men of the Nation, together with those of a few foreigners. These have been handsomely bound in a large quarto volume. We regard this as a very interesting feature of our work, and when it shall be still farther increased by the addition of those now promised, will be a source of pride to our State. In regard to the condition of the library and cabinet, owing to the death of Dr. Wm. Reynolds, who filled the office of Corresponding Secretary and Librarian for the first half of the term now reported for, we are not able to present the exact number of pamphlets, bound

volumes, trophies, natural curiosities, etc., that have been added since the last report. The addition in all these respects during the last year have been large. According to the report of the present librarian, the number of volumes received during the past year has been 460; number of pamphlets and papers, besides regular newspaper files, 152; articles for cabinet, 189. We would call your attention to a few only of the more important items in this report. From the Secretary of the Interior, we received at one time, 374 bound volumes, embracing complete sets of documents relating to the 35th and 36th Congress, together with other volumes of interest; from Joel Murrell, Esqr., publisher, of Albany New York, we received twenty bound volumes, and a large package of pamphlets, relating principally to the early history of New York; from Col. John Shane of the 13th Iowa regiment, a copy of "Dousat's Civil Law," in two large folio volumes, London edition and translation, published in A. D. 1741, a very rare and valuable work; from Howe & Taylor, publishers, of Marshalltown, five copies of the history of Marshall county, in pamphlet form; from Chief Engineer Thos. J. Jones, of the United States steamship Triconderoga, a very valuable collection of curiosities, obtained on the coast of Africa. From the Army we have received the flags of the 1st, 2d, 10th, 15th and 30th regiments of Iowa Infantry, together with several company flags. Most of these were accompanied by a letter giving their history, in brief, and all of them bearing marks of honorable service. We have likewise received the flag of General Curtis, borne through the Arkansas campaign. To Maj. Gen. L. J. Herron we are indebted for the present of a rebel flag, which floated over the court house in Van Buren Arkansas, while he was held there as a prisoner; from —, the flag of the 4th Texas Cavalry, a very handsome one, having a palmetto tree neatly worked in green silk, in the center of the field. There are three other rebel flags in our possession, and all of these were taken in action by Iowa soldiers. We have also an increasingly large collection of bowie knives, muskets, pikes, chains, and other trophies, many of them having an individual history well worth preserving. Capt. D. J. Davis, of Company A., 22d Iowa, has sent us many articles of interest, such as rebel papers, muster rolls, etc. Mrs. Annie Wittenmeyer has also favored us in like manner with rebel papers and correspondence, one of

which was a copy of the *Vicksburg Citizen*, dated June 18, 1863, and printed on the white side of wall paper. And last but not least, we would acknowledge with gratitude the kind interest that has been continually manifested by your Excellency, in securing for us contributions at once many and valuable. Before leaving this part of the report, we would desire to call the attention of the proper officers to that provision of our laws which grants to the Society eighty bound copies of all volumes published by the State, to be used for the purposes of exchange. By the accompanying statement of the Librarian it will be seen that this provision has not been complied with in full, at any time; and that since 1860, nothing has been received at this office, not even the Code of 1860, save twenty copies of the Adjutant General's Report for 1861, and one copy of the laws of 1861-2. These deficiencies exist, notwithstanding repeated efforts on the part of the secretary and librarian, to procure their delivery according to law. And further, for such as have been received during the past three years, the Society has been charged with the freight from Des Moines. We would also suggest an inquiry into the expediency of a law being enacted (similar to that in some of the eastern states) authorizing any county or city, by the vote of a majority of the qualified electors thereof, to set apart such a part of the public funds subject to their order, as may be necessary to secure the preparation and publication of the history of their respective cities or counties. We would also respectfully ask that hereafter this Society be allowed to print its own "Biennial Report," receiving compensation thereof at printer's rates. We would recommend the following changes in the charter of this Society: Chapter 2d to be amended so as to grant fifty bound copies of all works published by the State to be used according to the discretion of the Society. It will be seen by reference to the last named article of the charter, that the amendment proposes a less donation on the part of the State than we are now allowed. But according to the present law, allowing eighty copies, we are obliged to send fifty to M. Vattemere to Paris for the purpose of international exchange. Now it has been the uniform experience of this Society, that this system of exchange is a complete failure, or at least barren of any good results to us; and at the same time experience has

proven the desirableness of such a supply on such terms as we now propose.

By the treasurer's report which accompanies this, and with which are furnished for your inspection, the vouchers for 1862 and 1863, it will be seen that the balance in the treasury, November, 25th, 1863, was *two hundred and nineteen dollars and forty-six cents* (\$219.46).

In concluding this report we would respectfully request of each member of your honorable body to interest himself practically in the work of preserving the history of our counties, our State, our soldiers and our public men. You have with us, a common interest in this matter. By your personal efforts, each in his own district or county, more can be done for our cause than it is in the power of any other class of men to accomplish. We cheerfully give of our time and labor to the task of collecting and arranging such matters as come to our hand. Our hearts are interested in the work, and we shall feel well repaid if through the co-operation of others, we shall be enabled to preserve for future generations, a complete record of the past and present of our State.

STATEMENT OF LIBRARIAN.

LAWS OF IOWA.	NUMBER OF COPIES.
Laws of session 1848.....	62
“ “ “ 1856 regular session.....	40
“ “ “ 1856 extra session.....	62
“ “ “ 1857, regular session.....	10
“ “ “ 1858, “ “.....	68
“ “ “ 1860, “ “.....	56
“ “ “ 1861, extra session.....	1
“ “ “ 1862, regular session.....	1
“ “ “ 1862, extra session.....	1

JOURNALS AND DOCUMENTS OF IOWA.

Senate Journal, 1854,	7
House Journal, 1855,	8
House Journal, 1856,	59
Senate Journal, 1856,	44
Legislative Documents, 1856,	37
Appendix, 1856,	51
Census of Iowa, 1856,	120
Journal of the Constitutional Convention of Iowa, 1857,	57
Debates on the Constitutional Convention of Iowa, 1857,	57

REPORTS.

Agricultural Society, 4th Report, 1857,	30
Agricultural Society, 5th Report, 1858.....	68
Geology of Iowa, volumes 1 and 2	59
Adjutant General's Report, 1861,	1
Adjutant General's Report, 1862,	20
Total.....	919

Number of volumes received the last year,	460
Papers, pamphlets (single and sets), besides regular files....	152

ARTICLES FOR THE CABINET.

Minerals, 14; flags, 5; portraits, 120; and curiosities of nature and art, 49. Total, 188.

Whole number of books in the library, 2,204. Exchange papers or magazines, 51. All of which is respectfully submitted.

F. H. LEE, *President*.

CURATORS :—T. S. Parvin, N. H. Brainerd, Geo. H. Jerome, S. S. Howe, J. P. Wood, W. Crumm, O. M. Spencer, Geo. W. McCleary,
Iowa City, Dec. 1, 1863. N. R. LEONARD, *Sec'y.*