

THIRD BIENNIAL REPORT
OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE
STATE OF IOWA
TO THE
GOVERNOR.

FOR TWO YEARS ENDING DEC., 1861.

DES MOINES:
F. W. PALMER, STATE PRINTER.
1862.

REPORT.

To His Excellency, SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD, Governor of the State of Iowa:

SIR: In compliance with the act of the legislature of the State, approved January 28, 1857, to provide for an annual appropriation for the benefit of a "State Historical Society," wherein it is made "the duty of the executive committee of the said Historical Society of Iowa to keep an accurate account of the manner of expenditure of the said sum of money hereby appropriated, and furnish the same, together with the vouchers thereof, to the Governor of this State, in the month of December of the year the legislature shall meet, to be laid by him before the legislature, the executive committee of said Society respectfully report as follows:

REPORT OF J. P. WOOD, TREASURER.

Amount in treasury at the annual settlement, 26th November 1859.....	\$ 265.11
Proceeds of State warrants sold.....	737.00
Cash of corresponding secretary, for fees.....	35.00
Total amount received during 1860.....	1037.11
By amount of vouchers for 1860.....	800.95
Balance in treasury at November settlement ...	236.16
1861—Balance in the treasury brought down.....	236.10
To amount received from members and corresponding secretary.....	50.50
	286.66
By amount of vouchers for 1861.....	228.31
By amount of vouchers for 1861.....	44.70
By amount of vouchers for 1861.....	4.14
	277.15
Balance in treasury.....	9.51

J. P. Woods, *Treasurer.*

It should be noted that during the first two years of the Society's existence; viz, from 1857 to 1859, the officers thereof acted with-

out remuneration for their services. The concluding clause of the appropriating section of the act of 1857 prohibits the payment of any part of the said appropriation "services rendered by the officers of the Society." With a generous confidence in the good work they had taken in hand, they continued to work under the encouragement of this act, and at the close of 1859 they had the satisfaction, upon a review of their labors, to find that their success had been greater than even the most sanguine could have anticipated. No similar society in the union could boast so complete success. The Society stood unrivaled.

To substantiate this statement, we beg leave to call your Excellency's attention to the following extract from the report of the Wisconsin Historical Society of 1856, and quoted also in this Society's last report. The Massachusetts Historical Society, the Pioneer Society of the Union "which was formed in 1791, has 8,000 volumes in its library, and has published thirty-one volumes of its collections. The New York Historical Society was founded in 1804, has 25,000 volumes in its library, and has published about thirteen volumes of its proceedings; and the American Antiquarian Society, founded in 1812, has 22,000 volumes in its library, and has published three volumes of its collections, a catalogue volume, and several pamphlets. The Rhode Island Historical Society, founded in 1822, (number of volumes not known), has published three volumes of collections. The New Hampshire Historical Society, founded in 1823, has 1,560 volumes, and has published six volumes of its collections. The Connecticut Historical Society was founded in 1825, has 8,000 volumes, but has published no collections. The Pennsylvania Historical Society, founded in 1825, with 2,000 volumes in its library, has published five volumes of collections, and several bulletins and pamphlets. The Virginia Historical Society, founded in 1818, has 1,200 volumes in its library, and has published one volume of its collections, and about seven volumes of an Historical Register. The Ohio Historical Society, founded in 1831, has 1,000 volumes in its library, and has published three volumes of collections and several pamphlets. The Kentucky Historical Society, founded in 1838, has 1,000 volumes in its library, and has issued no publications. The Georgia Historical Society, founded in 1839, has united its library with that of the Savannah Society, and has published three

volumes of collections. The Maryland Historical Society, founded in 1844, has 2,128 volumes, and has published several pamphlets. The Missouri Historical Society, founded in 1844, has 300 volumes, and has issued one pamphlet of proceedings. The New England Historic Genealogical Society, founded in 1844, has 4,000 volumes, and has published nine volumes of a Historical and Genealogical Register, and some pamphlets. The New Jersey Historical Society, founded in 1834, has 1,930 volumes, and furnished four volumes of collections and six of proceedings. The Minnesota Historical Society, founded in 1849, has 300 volumes, and has published four pamphlets of collections. There are other Historical Societies extant, such as those of Vermont, North Carolina, and Alabama, whose libraries are small, and which have issued no publications."

The State Historical Society of Iowa was organized February 3d 1857; and the report of the executive committee made in 1859, shows that while acting under the encouragement of its organic act to 1859, the Society had accumulated a library of 2,000 volumes, a large number of pamphlets, manuscripts, maps, engravings and curiosities of a highly useful character, thus manifesting a progress unrivaled by any other similar institution in our land. The report of 1859 shows also that active correspondence had been opened and carried on with the several societies above mentioned, with other literary and scientific societies and institutions, with distinguished authors, individuals and publishers in various parts of the union, and, finally, with several similar institutions in Europe, from most of which promise was made of fraternal co-operation. It has before been stated the officers of the Society were acting without remuneration. Please permit the committee to submit the 5th article of the constitution of the Society which reads as follows: "The corresponding secretary shall have charge of the correspondence of the Society, be a member of the board of curators, have a general oversight of all its affairs, subject to the direction of the executive officers to whom he shall make a monthly report, and be known as the official organ." From the foregoing it will be seen that the office of corresponding secretary is no sinecure, and the increasing prosperity and prospects of the Society, connected with the fact that the doings of the Society were far more beneficial to the State at large, than to the individuals of the Society, who did not

feel justified in demanding the requisite portion of that officer's time without remuneration.

The sum of \$250 under the grant of 1857 being indispensable, for defraying the expenses unavoidably accruing in all such institutions and feeling conscious that that appropriation had been faithfully expended for legitimate purposes, the Society did not hesitate to ask the legislature to grant an additional appropriation for the purpose of enabling it to pay that officer a just salary. The appeal was not in vain. The legislature made the asked for appropriation of \$500, leaving off the prohibitory clause of the act of 1857. See page 337 of the act of 1857, and page 146 of the act of 1860. But in the Revised Code, page 347, it will be seen that the appropriating section of the act of 1860 *alone*, is inserted, to which is attached, certainly by some oversight, the prohibitory clause in the act of 1857. If it be correct the executive committee have erred, by paying a part of said appropriation to the secretary for services, nevertheless they have acted in accordance with the act as passed, as will be seen on page 147 of the printed acts of 1860.

Respecting the Revised Code: The committee would call your Excellency's attention to that part of the act of 1857 appropriating "thirty bound copies of all documents published by order of the State, for the purpose of effecting changes with similar societies in other States, and also fifty copies of all such documents to be transmitted through the medium of the Secretary of said Society, to Mr. Vattemere, at Paris, in furtherance of his system of international exchange." On presenting the claims of the Society to the Hon. Secretary of State, that officer declines the delivery of the said Code on account of the provisions of the special act of the legislature of 1860, providing for the revision of the laws of this session into the Revision presented by the Commissioners, and also for superintending the publication and indexing and distribution of the same. This is exceedingly to be regretted, as it is altogether desirable that all State documents on the shelves of the Society's library should be full, and that all exchanges should be equally so, and the committee respectfully ask that a liberal construction be put upon that act, so as to enable the Society to draw the specified number of copies of that work. The Executive Committee take pleasure in reviewing the past, and also in contemplating the present and future prospects

of the Society. The report of 1859 showed a library of about 2,000 volumes. This, of course, included the documents furnished by the State and assigned to "aid in exchanges." Since that report many of these documents have been sent abroad to other societies and institutions some of which have, while others have not, responded. All, however, are in trustworthy hands and proper returns will eventually be made. Thus, though the number of volumes on our shelves may not have been very much increased, the variety and real value of the library is greatly increased, for in this respect the shelves show an increase of about 450 volumes, and an equal number of pamphlets. The map department has been much enlarged by the addition of town, city, and county maps of our own State, and several of the same character in other states. Four successive editions of the early maps of Iowa, Nicollet's Hydrostatic Map of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, published by authority of Congress, very large and rare, and several others interesting for their antiquity.

In our newspaper department we find, on the racks, regular files of the following newspapers, all published in our own State: *Muscatine Journal*, *Davenport Gazette*, *Burlington Hawkeye*, *Dubuque Herald*, *Weekly Times*, *Democratic Clarion*, *Story County Advocate*, *Tipton Advertiser*, *Weekly Lyons Mirror*, *Lyons City Advocate*, *Maquoketa Excelsior*, *Iowa State Register*, *Iowa State Reporter*, *Iowa Weekly Republican*, *State Press*, *Iowa Valley Democrat*, *Vinton Eagle*, *Hamilton Freeman*, *Taylor County Tribune*, *Butler County Jeffersonian*, *Home Journal*, *Washington Press*, *Wapello Republican*, *Page County Herald*, *Independent Civilian*, *Clayton County Journal*, *Jefferson Blade*, *Democratic Union*, *Weekly Sentinel*, *Fayette County Pioneer*, *Oskaloosa Weekly News*, *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, *Keokuk County News*, *Keosauqua Republican*, *Linn County Register*, *Sioux City Register*, *Mount Vernon News*, *Buchanan Guardian*, *Des Moines Valley Whig*, *Des Moines News*, *Cedar Valley Times*, *Der Debuque National Democrat*, *Wheatland Times*, *Iowa Transcript*, *Anamosa Eureka*, *De Witt Standard*, and last though not least, the *Voice of Iowa*, a neat educational journal, published by the Iowa State Association of Teachers.

Of the following a small number is received occasionally and placed upon the rack: The *Cedar Democrat*, *Commonwealth*,

Democratic *Clarion* Iowa State *Journal*, Clinton *Herald*, Evening *Union*, Marion County *Republican* Albia Weekly *Gazette*, Magnolia *Republican*, Iowa *Democrat*, Public *Review*, Franklin Record, Marshall County *Times*, Iowa County *Democrat*. While from a few others, from two to half a dozen numbers in the year are received. This department, when the papers are regularly filed as received and placed upon the racks, never fails to arrest the attention and elicit the approbation of every person who visits the rooms; and none are more hearty in their expressions of approval than editors, many of whom have visited us, and whose papers since have never failed to be found in regular file on the racks. It will be seen that about fifty newspapers are received regularly each week, about twenty irregularly, and a few occasionally. It is supposed there are published in the State at least one hundred newspapers and periodicals. These papers, regularly filed, preserved, bound and placed on the shelves of the Society, will, fifty years hence, be of incalculable worth to the State, and to the individuals thereof, and would alone repay with interest all the expense incurred in sustaining the Society.

In them will be found the early and passing history of each county of the State, and the passing events of the world, in all their phases, together with all the differing views of the communities at the time. Certainly this is an object worth an effort, and it is hoped that every editor of a newspaper or other periodical in the State will take a personal interest in it, and see that his publications are regularly sent to the "State Historical Society," and when they can send back numbers or volumes, be they few or many, they will be thankfully received and carefully preserved. Occasional newspapers from other States are received, and two or three valuable periodical magazines are regularly received, such as the "Historical Magazine," published by C. B. Richardson & Co., New York; the "Millennial Harbinger," by Rev. A. Campbell, Bethany, Va., and historical collections of the Essex Institute, Salem, Mass.

The Society has succeeded in collecting quite a number of very old papers, posters, manuscripts, and autographs and fac simile letters of distinguished individuals of our country.

The picture department has been enlarged by several large, elegant views of towns in our own State, and some others, and about

fifty daguerreotype and photograph likenesses of distinguished individuals of the State. The Society has likewise succeeded in laying the foundation, at least, for a cabinet of natural history. A few specimens in ornithology, quite an interesting collection in conchology, geology, and a few specimens in mineralogy, have been obtained. The two latter are placed, as a matter of convenience, in a separate case, in the cabinet of the University.

The Society is very desirous of enlarging this department with specimens in each branch from various parts of the State, and persons residing in the vicinity of coal, lead, iron, or any mineral mine or bed, will confer a favor by sending fair specimens to the Society.

Specimens of the different kinds of limestone, with the petrifications contained therein, or taken therefrom; indeed, specimens of any natural or manufactured curiosities; everything relating to the manners, customs, or history of the Indians, incidents, adventures, and exploits of the early settlers of the several counties; accounts of the first schools, their progress, all go to make up the history of the State, and of course, will be gladly received. The donation of old books, pamphlets, manuscripts, posters, etc., of bygone days, is solicited. Every township, every school district, can and should aid in furthering the objects of this Society.

The committee would take great pleasure in naming the many societies, institutions, authors, publishers, and individuals, that have aided their efforts, and in specifying each donation, and certainly it would be doing an act of merited courtesy to do so; but such a list would add little to the interest or utility of this report, while it would demand a very undesirable length. The executive committee then, beg leave in general terms, to acknowledge obligations to the following, viz:

To Rev. Albert Barnes, D. D., of Philadelphia; Rev. Alexander Campbell Bethany, Virginia; Chicago Historical Society, Illinois; New Jersey Historical Society; New Hampshire Historical Society; Wisconsin Historical Society; Minnesota Historical Society; Michigan Historical Society; Ohio Historical Society and State Library; New York Historical Society and State Library. To our representatives in Congress, Hon. James W. Grimes, Hon. James Harlan, Hon. William Vandever and Hon. S. R. Curtiss. To the Hon. C. Smith, Secretary of the Interior; Prof. J. Henry, J. C. McGuire,

Esqr., and Wm. Renolds, Jr., of Washington, D. C. To Hon. W. C. Noyes, New York; J. Maxwell, S. H. Conger, New Jersey. To State of Iowa, State University; State Bank of Iowa, Iowa City Council; C. Childs, C. B. Smith, D. D., M. Northrop, Mr. Gilbert, C. L. D. Jones, of Dubuque, Iowa; R. M. Prettyman, Willard Barrows, Hon. James F. Grant and his lady, Hon J. F. Dillon, Rt. Rev. H. W. Lee, D. D., of Davenport; L. D. Campbell, W. F. Coolbaugh, Rev. W. Barris, of Burlington; W. A. Brownell, Dr. Thompson, Hon. E. H. Thayer, of Muscatine; Jesse Williams, of Fairfield; G. S. Reynolds, of Des Moines; Hon. — Kellogg of Newton; Milton Tabor, of Springdale; John Sthele, of Solon; John Tamplin, Rev. O. McLean, J. R. Hartsock, Rev. E. Francis, H. W. Laphthrop, Prof. T. S. Parvin, Jesse Higbee, J. M. Harris, R. H. Sylvester, George Shockey, David Shockey, F. L. Childs, S. Woodrow, Dr. M. B. Cochran, George Butts, D. P. Greeley, C. S. Laporte, Able Beach, Dr. W. Reynolds, Henry Winchu, Prof. D. F. Wells, Rev. Silas Totten, D. D., Gov. S. J. Kirkwood, of Iowa City; and Adjt. Gen. N. B. Baker, of Davenport; and John Gilinary, the author of several Western Exploration works of value, New York.

Great as may be the obligations of the Society to those above named, and to many of them it is largely indebted for donations and services, yet the true interests of the Society are the better served by those who most contribute to the history of our own Iowa, by those who notice, collect and record past and passing incidents and transactions; in short by those who have engaged or will engage in collecting the materials and writing out the history of their respective counties. Such persons are conferring the greatest favor upon (not the Historical Society of Iowa, merely), but upon the whole State, upon the counties, upon their own and their children's children. In perusing the history of a State or county, no part is enlivened with so intense interest as the incidents of its early settlements.

A State like our own "Iowa," which for its rapid advancement probably stands unrivaled in the annals of history, which less than a quarter of a century ago was the home of the "Red Man," which already has a population of about three quarters of a million, and which has already sent into the service of her country nearly 20,000 soldiers to aid in suppressing the rebellion in

her sister states, and stands ready to send as many more if need be, must necessarily have an early history well worthy of record. In a State thus rapidly advancing, interesting incidents, important transactions, all going to make up its history, must have crowded upon the foot-steps of each other with more than usual rapidity, and the very fact that they are thus crowding upon each other, and so rapidly passing away, renders the collection of the most remarkable and important items requisite to do justice to the early settlers of this State exceedingly difficult at this early day; and the difficulty is yearly becoming still greater as these early actors are slowly but surely passing from our midst. To collect and preserve the history and items of history, passed and passing, of Iowa will be acknowledged by all to be an object of great importance. This is as it should be the great object of the Society. With this view, aid has been and is still solicited from citizens of the various counties of the State. Men have been found who have taken active interest in the matter which has resulted in furnishing our library with histories, (in manuscript) of several of our counties, while several others are now engaged in collecting and arranging facts and writing the histories of other counties. It is by no means unusual to hear our public speakers and writers boast of the superior intelligence of the citizens of Iowa. If they speak the truth, and the committee are by no means disposed to question their veracity, it is just to assume that there is not a county in the State that does not contain individuals, who, if the matter was properly presented to them, would zealously set themselves at work to collect the necessary items and materials for the future history of the State, arrange them or cause them to be arranged in proper form, and forward them to be deposited in the archives of the Society for future use. If the committee may be indulged in suggesting a starting medium they would present the county superintendents of schools; under him the school directors and teachers, and under these the pupils. Thus the whole matter may be made an interesting and intellectual employment for the young while it will inevitably produce a healthy reaction upon the community.

The committee feel unwilling to close their report without respectfully appealing to your excellency, and through your excel-