

Big B Or Little b—DuBuque Or Dubuque

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might live to see the day when the smoke would curl ardwup from the white man's cabin for more than a hundred miles west of Winchester." He then proceeded to unroll a plat of the town, and after explaining its geographical outlines, called upon the people to give him a bid upon a corner lot fronting upon the public square; and after crying the lot for some time, Mr. Jesse Durgan stepped forward with a bracing, angular stride, and after taking a drink from a tin-cup he held in his hand, observed in a fearless and venturesome manner, "Governor, I'll bid two thousand dollars on that are lot." At this announcement the Governor closed up one eye, gave a low whistle, slid down from the hopper and observed, "Boys, the sale's adjourned. Let's take a drink all round." The polls, which had been closed for an hour, had resumed some time previous to the ending of the Governor's auction, and simultaneous with it the closing of the polls was announced in due form.

BIG B OR LITTLE b---DuBuque or Dubuque.

It will be recollected that THE ANNALS, under the editorial management of Prof. Parvin, used a capital B in spelling Dubuque. We find in the Dubuque *Herald*, of a late date, the following remarks on the subject, which are from the ready and interesting pen of Mr. C. Childs:

"As the manner of writing the name of 'Dubuque' is still discussed by perhaps one man in a hundred, when the error of the capital 'B' is mentioned, we will present the facts of the case, and the reasons for **the adoption** of the present form of writing and printing the **word**. Of course we assume that the capital 'B' is an error. **Some** have even contended that it should be written De Buque, for the reason that 'de,' signifying 'of' in French, is used as a prefix to names in that language; but it is then used only as a part of the name, and is written with a small 'd,' or, as printers call it, with a lower

case 'd.' No one will claim that 'Du' in Dubuque is an English or American corruption of 'de.' The spelling of 'Duoque,' as a French name, is 'Debuc,' and without the capital 'B.'

"Julien Dubuque himself, in honor of whom our city and county is named, being an educated man, at least in good penmanship, wrote his name in a neat, legible hand, according to the correct English form—"Dubuque." We have seen his own signature of the date of 1796—many years before the blunder of using the capital 'B' in the name was committed.

"In the papers referring to the Dubuque claim case, commencing about 1806, and continuing, at intervals, in the published records of the commissioners to adjust Spanish claims within the 'Louisiana purchase,' including Iowa, the name is generally printed 'Dubuque,' though from some blunder of a copyist, proof-reader, or of some one who believed himself wise beyond his time, it is in one instance printed 'Dubuc,' and in one or two 'Dubugue.'

"Twenty-five years after the death of Dubuque, and after 'Dubuque's mines' were occupied and the site of our city also occupied by a population sufficient to support a newspaper, the *DuBuque Visitor*, in 1836, adopted the capital B, which, though an error, appeared to sanction that form of writing the word. But the correct manner soon prevailed, and except a *very* few of the early settlers, and several clerks who like to display a good pen on the use of capital letters, and the frequently erroneous late editor of the IOWA ANNALS, and a few other persons, we know of no authority for the big B in Dubuque. All books, newspapers, laws, records and maps published in and of Iowa for the last twenty years, have used the name Dubuque in the right form, and that is enough to establish the orthography; and the pronunciation is, on the authority of usage and custom, established as Dubuque, and not 'Du-book,' as some eastern geographers and gazeteers have it.

"The documents in the final decision of the U. S. Supreme Court, in the claim case, in 1852, good authority, show the

name written and printed 'Dubuque,' and so it is written everywhere, except by the persons alluded to. This may seem like making too much of a Big or a Little 'b,' but a recent publication having inserted a Big B so prominently, we did not wish to let it stand for authority, and hence, without the least waspish spirit to sting anybody in print, we enter our protest against the wrong use of the capital 'B' in all printing or writing of the word and name 'Dubuque.' "

ANECDOTE OF JUDGE McFARLAND AND GEN. SAM. RICE.

We believe the following anecdote first appeared in the *Des Moines Register*. It has been widely copied, and we cannot withstand the temptation to transfer it to the pages of THE ANNALS :

Some years ago, Judge McFarland—the hairy man of the West, as the Cincinnati Convention dubbed him—used to be a "power" up in the High Boone and the adjacent counties, wherein he dispensed justice—or, rather, dispensed with it. During the time he thus adorned the bench, the late Gen. Sam. A. Rice happened to have a "case" in one of his courts, of which he used to relate the following: The morning upon which the Court was to hear and decide motions, "she" scarcely "understood herself," from the fact of "her" bibulous practices the preceding evening, and, indeed, until the "wee sma' hours beyant the twal." In short, the Court was in a very obfuscated and muddled condition, and decidedly cross-grained. One attorney after another had submitted motions, all of which his Honor summarily overruled, without a moment of thought or investigation. At length Gen. Rice's turn came, when he arose and quietly remarked that "he had a little motion to submit, which, however, was of no particular moment—merely to 'save a point'—and that as his Honor was overruling everything that morning, he couldn't expect

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