

State History

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ward. It seemed like our ruin. If he should charge and get the prestige of attack, our destruction seemed inevitable. It was an awful moment, but proved to be the glory of the Fourth Iowa. Major Pierce, knowing how critical was the condition, determined at once upon a movement of his own, and taking the responsibility on himself, dashed to the left of the regiment and ordered it forward at a charge, in columns of four. Galloping through the wavering line of the regiment in front, our column rushed with wild cheers, against the rebel right. This novel movement gave us the victory. The enemy, surprised, gave way where he was struck, our whole force joined in the charge, and his whole line was broken away like a row of falling bricks."

The text is frequently illustrated with drawings of battles, the casualties of each regiment are given in foot notes at the bottoms of the pages, and a roster of the officers is set forth with each organization. As to binding and printing the work is unexcelled. Take it all in all, it is a remarkable production, exhibiting on the part of its author, great ability, industry and rapidity of composition. That it has been favorably received is shown by its having already reached its third edition, though it is less than a year since it made its first appearance. Of all the works in relation to the rebellion which *have* been printed, this is decidedly the most readable and accurate, and contains information which can be found no where else. He must be a bold man who will undertake to write a book to supplant it.

STATE HISTORY.

Much as has been done by the State Historical Society toward collecting and preserving that which affords knowledge of the past, and current history of the State, much is still left unacquired pertaining to matters of the first importance. The accumulations on the shelves of its Library and Cabinet Rooms, are becoming quite large, and yet points of special interest in our early State history, the facts of which should be gathered, remain untouched.

The pioneers who enacted the history of those early days and whose memories are clear upon the topics of these scenes and transactions of their young manhood, are one by one passing away, and soon the sources of authentic information concerning much which is of importance to the future, will be dried forever. That which should have been historical fact fades into uncertain tradition, or is altogether lost.

One or two men in each county who would give the labor of collecting and writing these fading facts would do a service to the public as lasting as the history of the State.

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