

Editorial Remarks

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and others, among their active members, of the highest renown for culture and leadership in every intellectual walk of life. To men of this class in our own State, has the Society, as well as the State, a right to look for countenance and active work in forwarding its objects.

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA.

The State University has commenced its Winter term with favorable prospects. Its classes are large, its chairs are full, and its departments all established.

At the June meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Law Department of the University was established; and at the September meeting of the Board, the Medical Department was established.

The chairs of the Law Department have been filled with the following named gentlemen: Judges Geo. G. Wright, C. C. Cole and W. G. Hammond. A class is now being instructed in this department.

The Board also at its last meeting appointed a committee to select competent persons to fill the several chairs in the Medical Department.

By the time of another meeting of the legislature, every department will be fully organized, and the institution will stand before the people of the State and the world in an attitude it has not before—that of a *University*.

Gradually, we presume, will the inferior departments, to-wit: The preparatory and normal, be separated from it, and then the University will walk forth on its mission, unincumbered, the pride of all the people.

EDITORIAL REMARKS.

RETROSPECTIVE.

The present number closes two years of service as Corresponding Secretary of the State Historical Society, and ex-officio, the Editorial management of the *ANNALS*.

We make the retrospect with something of satisfaction, although conscious that it has not reached the highest point of success which, in our aspirations, we would have had it attain. But in view of the difficulties in the way of success, much, very much, has been accomplished; and it is in view of this, rather than the success which might have attended in a field of labor unhedged by peculiar difficulties, that we look upon results with the satisfaction we feel.

We took charge of the *ANNALS*,—for it is of it that we now especially propose to speak—when it was a forty-eight page tract; we gave it attention, care and labor, pushing the objects of the Society, and foraging in all directions for the historical records and reminiscences of the State, with a persistence not justified by the fact of compensation or the encouragement of co-operative labor of any. We turn it over to our successor, if called upon to turn over, a work of the magazine proportions of one hundred pages and upwards of original matter, and promised contributions from nearly every portion of the State.

To do this, has required much of unrequited labor, for we undertook the duty when there was no pay, or at most a merely nominal compensation attached. It was "a labor of love" task that we entered upon in the discharge of our work. It was the opinion of those who invited us to the duties of the position, that it could be easily accomplished during the intervals of a professional business, and such was our innocent expectation; but we soon found that to do the Society justice, to push its objects thoroughly, the intervals must lap largely upon our legitimate working hours, and more and more as we gave it effort they stretched out longer and longer, until covering a large portion of every day.

The work went on, material collected in the historical rooms, and the ANNALS gradually swelled to its present dimensions.

It looks to be a light task, as one reads or glances through its pages—to bring out *quarterly* so small a pamphlet as the ANNALS was when we commenced its management, or even now is. It would have been but a trifling labor had it been of another class of publications. A literary, political, or religious work, would have brought forward scores of imaginative story tellers, political aspirants, and religious theorizers, upon call, ready to immortalize themselves in the one field, or vindicate their platforms in the other, or their faith in the third.

But to develop "the truths of history" of the State, is quite another thing, and compels the draw to be made upon a very select and limited class of its writers.

The pioneers of the State are growing few; those who wield "the pen of a ready writer," are fewer, and those among them willing to put aside their paying business affairs and undertake the unpaid task of gathering from official records and the recollections of their neighbors, and their own remembrances, the material for a county or local history, still greatly diminish the already reduced number of the original few. Hence to secure such contributions requires persistent vigilance and correspondence, and subjects the Editor to the annoyance of many delinquencies of promised work, and to serious disappointments, over the causes of which he has no control.

The manager of a literary monthly or quarterly, backed by the usual capital may take his money to the literary market and command his contributions; the moneyless gatherer of "annals" must solicit unpaid historical donations. This is the difference. That we have pursued our labor patiently and persistently through many disappointments and against many discouragements, until we have seen our efforts crowned with reasonable success, in the production of a publication which, in size and importance of matter, is worthy of the valuable organization which puts it forth, and the Society itself gathering in a rich harvest of historic relics and material, and established as it has now become and deserves to be one of the noble wards of the State, the recipient of a munificent appropriation to sustain its work, are the sources of gratification which we feel in making the review of our two years of official service in its behalf.

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