

Van Buren County

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Here, amid domestic quiet, within hearing of the careless whistle of the oriole on the one hand, and the buzz of city commerce on the other, surrounded by terraces of books, Prof. Parvin devotes himself to the collection of materials for history, and drives a facile pen in embodying the records of ancient Masonry and in the editorial conduct of *The Evergreen*.

As may be inferred from what has been said, Prof. Parvin has an engaging presence and winning manners, and is not deficient in the attributes necessary for a successful party manager, which he would have been had he devoted more time to politics and less to science. In early life an accident entailed upon him permanent lameness, which turned his inclinations away from outside sports and out of door occupations toward the cultivation of letters and the study of books. It is thus that what appear at the time the greatest misfortunes and calamities, are often, under Heaven, converted into blessings for us, and the sources of happiness.

These are but a few notes in the life of a useful public man, whose name has been familiar to the people of Iowa, in politics, in religion, in educational affairs, and in benevolent enterprise, from her earliest settlement to the present time. As he is but little past the meridian of life, his record is as yet incomplete, and it is to be hoped a long extension of his life will afford many incidents and events worthy the attention of his future biographer, who will also have to supply many omissions by the present writer.

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VAN BUREN COUNTY.

THE old settlers of Van Buren county recently effected a permanent organization, under the following constitution:—

ARTICLE I. This society shall be called the "Pioneer Association of Van Buren county, Iowa."

ART. II. All persons may become members of this association who settled in this county prior to the first day of January, 1842, and have remained here ever since, upon payment to the treasurer of fifty cents, and registering his name with the secretary of this association.

ART. III. The wife, children, and descendants in the direct line, males and females, of pioneers, are honorary members of this association.

ART. IV. The officers of this association shall be a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and one director in each township, all of whom shall constitute a board of control of the society, with power to fix the time and place of the annual meetings of the association, make by-laws, call special meetings, and generally to do such things as may be calculated to promote the objects of the association; and the first election of officers shall be made at the time of the adoption of this constitution, and thereafter at the regular annual meeting in each year.

ART. V. Any five of the above officers shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

ART. VI. The secretary shall keep the records of the society in a book or books, to be provided therefor; the treasurer shall receive and pay out all moneys belonging to the society on the order of the president, countersigned by the secretary, and keep an account of the moneys received or so paid out.

ART. VII. This constitution may be amended at any regular annual meeting of the association, by a vote of two-thirds of all the members present; or by a vote of the majority of the members present, if notice of the proposed amendment has been embodied in the call for the meeting.

ART. VIII. That pioneer settlers residing in other counties of the state shall be honorary members of this association, and are cordially invited to participate and co-operate with this association in forwarding its objects.

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