

Letter of Thos. J. Jones, Chief Engineer, U. S. N.

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old. It is in good English type, well bound, in two large folio volumes; and is one of the richest trophies of the war.—EDITOR.]

LAKE PROVIDENCE, LA., March 15, 1863.

Hon. S. J. Kirkwood:

DEAR SIR—I send you, by Major Wilson, for the State Historical Society, “a copy of Domat’s Civil Law,” not only a very rare, but a very valuable work. And, what adds very much to its value as a curiosity, it is one hundred and forty [one] years old; and was found by me, amongst the ruins of the deserted and abandoned library of Gen. Edward Sparrow of Louisiana, who is now a member of the rebel Confederate Senate. Please present the books to the State Historical Society; and, with them, my best wishes for its success.

I remain very respectfully yours,

JOHN SHANE,

Lieut. Col. Commanding the 13th Iowa Infantry.

LETTER OF THOS. J. JONES, CHIEF ENGINEER, U. S. N.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., April 17, 1863.

To the President of the State Historical Society of Iowa:

SIR:—You will be pleased to accept, for the State Historical Society of Iowa, some curiosities I gathered on the coast of Africa from the natives, during a cruise in the U. S. S. Sumter.

To Hon. Charles Mason of Burlington, I am indebted for the knowledge of your Institution. And should what I have sent by Express be of any value, please acknowledge the same to him, since he is my regular correspondent. Mean while, should you desire a collection I may make, in my future journeyings and travels, he will inform me; and I shall ever be pleased to gather what I can for your State.

Being, as I am a citizen of Iowa, with my father interred on the banks of the beautiful Des Moines, I have more than an interest in Iowa, while I remember, with pride, the third dwelling erected in your city; and I now recall, with pleasure, my associations

with the Burges, the Walkers, Welsh and other families, with whom I resided in 1842.

I am, now, about to sail, and may be absent two years. On my return, I shall visit my boyhood's home, if I do not make it my final home. Until then, I must bid adieu.

Respectfully your ob't serv't,

THOS. J. JONES, Chief Engineer, U. S. N.

On Board U. S. S. S. Ticonderoga.

P. S.—I paid the Express charges.

T. J. J.

[Accompanying the above was a box with the following articles of much interest and value: a traveler's food bag, made by the natives of the fibre of the cocoanut; a cloth or mat used or worn by Africans; an ivory hunter's fetich of success; an elephant's tooth; a doctor's gilla or fetich; a hump-back whale's tooth, charms worn by kings; a rattle to dispell and breezes and call for sea breezes; a canibal's war-knife, manufactur'd and used by the Africans of the Upper Goboan river; and also a specimen of lava from the peak of Teneriffe, an island off the coast. An appropriate acknowledgment was returned, and further collections were solicited.—EDITOR.]

LETTER OF HOSEA B. HORN, ESQ.

BLOOMFIELD, DAVIS CO., IOWA,)
April 29, 1863)

SIR—This day, I mail to you the first volume of the "Iowa Farmer's Advocate," published by James Tizzard & Co., at Burlington, Iowa, commencing, August, 1847. It was edited by H. Gates; and at the close of the first year, was merged into the "Valley Farmer," at St. Louis, Mo.

It is, I believe, the first Agricultural paper ever published in Iowa. I was a subscriber to it, at the time of its publication, preserved the same, and now present the volume to the State Historical Society.

I, also, send you an old copy of a "Narrative of the Civil and Military Services of W. H. Harrison," published in 1836. This copy, I have had in my possession nearly twenty-seven years, having purchased the same in July, 1836.

I am very respectfully your obed't serv't,

HOSEA B. HORN.

Librarian of State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa.

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