

## The Iowa Geological Survey

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yet a very young man, his investigations resulted in several publications of more or less value. He returned to this country in 1818, and from that time until his death in 1840, his life was filled with arduous labors in natural history, including geology, meteorology, botany, ichthyology, conchology, astronomy, chemistry and metaphysics, to which he sometimes added that of lecturer, and teacher. Notwithstanding his great ability and diversified knowledge, he was an eccentric character who would be called "a crank" by many people at the present time. But he was the first naturalist to explore the valley of the Ohio and other portions of this country, the results of which for the most part were published in his life-time. But as the years passed other men explored the same regions, to a large extent ignoring the work and publications of Rafinesque. He came at last to be mentioned as a "Forgotten Naturalist." It has been a labor of love for Prof. R. E. Call—a former resident of Des Moines—to make a thorough study of the life and writings of Rafinesque, carefully exploring his labors and giving him the credit which, as an early explorer and discoverer, he undoubtedly deserves. The results of his studies have been published by the Filson Club of Louisville, Kentucky, in a most beautiful volume of 227 pages, with two portraits of Rafinesque and other engravings, of which a large paper copy has reached the Historical Department of Iowa. It also presents a bibliography of the writings of Rafinesque, containing a grand total of books, pamphlets, translations, magazine articles, etc., of 447 titles. It has made permanently accessible, in an attractive form, whatever is known of this pioneer naturalist, who certainly deserved to be remembered and not forgotten.

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THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, Volume 3, Second Annual Report, 1893, with accompanying papers. Geological Corps: Samuel Calvin, A. M., Ph. D., Geologist; Charles Rollin Keyes, A. M., Ph. D., Assistant State Geologist; G. E. Patrick, A. M., Chemist. Des Moines, Iowa: The Kenyon Press, 1895.

This is an exceedingly beautiful volume, handsomely printed, tastefully bound, copiously illustrated with engravings, maps, diagrams, etc., and thoroughly indexed. It presents a report of the operations of the Iowa Geological Survey for the year 1893. In addition to the labors of Messrs. Calvin and Keyes, the survey had the aid of thirteen special and temporary assistants. The energies of the organization were largely devoted to the investigation of the coal deposits of our State, but much attention was also given to our clays, building-stones, lime-burning rocks, soils and other geological resources. Several of the assistants are represented by papers upon subjects which they have specially studied in the field. Professor Calvin contributes an interesting chapter on the "Composition and Origin of Iowa Chalk," which is illustrated by a fine plate showing the shells of the microscopic animals which built up the cretaceous rocks. Dr. Keyes is represented by chapters on the "Work and Scope of the Geological

Survey," "Glacial Scorings in Iowa," "Gypsum Deposits of Iowa," "Geology of Lee County," and "Geology of Des Moines County," Mr. H. F. Bain writes of his studies of the "Cretaceous Deposits of the Sioux Valley," Mr. W. H. Norton of the "Thickness of Paleozoic Strata of Northeast Iowa," and Mr. C. H. Gordon of "Buried River Channels in Southeast Iowa." While these and other topics are treated from the standpoint of geological science, the various papers are written in a style which will make them highly interesting to the general reader. We regard the work as a very valuable one. The clear and beautiful type from which it was tastefully printed, the large pages and broad margins, and the many fine and graphic illustrations, combine to make the volume a fine specimen of the art of book-making, highly creditable to the Kenyon Press of Des Moines. The book will go into the leading libraries at home and abroad, where it will be sought by all who desire information concerning the geological history and abundant resources of Iowa.

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HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES FOR SCHOOLS. By John Fiske, LL. D., with topical analysis, suggestive Questions and Directions for Teachers, By Frank Alpine Hill. Litt. D. Boston, New York, and Chicago, Houghton, Mifflin & Company, 1895. For sale by L. B. Abdill, Des Moines Iowa.

While this is a most copiously illustrated history of our country, and mainly intended for the use of schools, it is yet so full and comprehensive, so suggestive of wider fields of investigation and the sources of information, that it may well find a place in every library, public and private, and be read with profit by both the young and old. As a reference hand-book, we know of nothing better. Prof. John Fiske has never put forth a volume, historical or scientific, which will impart so much useful information to so many people.

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### NOTABLE DEATHS.

ARTHUR HASWELL, who settled in Cass Township, Hamilton county, in 1856, died in Webster City on the 11th day of February last. He was a useful, exemplary man in the early society of that section, active in religious and educational work, genial and kindly in his ways, and honest and upright in his dealings with others. The Golden Rule governed his course throughout his life. In 1862 he enlisted in the 28th Iowa Infantry, serving with credit, not only through, but some months after, the close of, the war for the Union. He was captured at Mansfield, Louisiana, by the Confederates, and spent fourteen months as a prisoner of war at Tyler, Texas. When the writer established *The Freeman* at Webster City, in June, 1857, Mr. Haswell's was one of the first names to be placed upon the subscription list, where we suppose it remained through all these thirty-eight years until his death. He possessed considerable facility as a writer, not only as a voluntary gatherer of neighborhood news, but in the discussion of political, religious, and educational topics. As an enterprising pioneer settler, a

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