

Hon. J. B. Grinnell

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ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

HON. J. B. GRINNELL.

The first article in this number of THE ANNALS presents a very just estimate of the private worth and public services of this distinguished Iowan, who died March 31, 1891. It was written by Professor Leonard F. Parker, one of the leading and well-known educators of our State, the friend and associate of Mr. Grinnell more than a quarter of a century. Professor Parker still ably fills the chair of History in Iowa College, and is the author of an elaborate monograph on "Higher Education in Iowa." No man in the State knew Mr. Grinnell more intimately, and no one is better fitted to write a just estimate of the departed statesman. The life of J. B. Grinnell was filled with good works, many of which live after him. An intimate friend of Horace Greeley, and himself a ready writer, he was always a welcome contributor to the NEW YORK TRIBUNE, through which he spared no effort to apprise eastern people of the advantages presented by our young State to all home-seekers. It was often said of Mr. Grinnell that no other ten men did so much to advertise Iowa. His great topic was Iowa, and no man was better informed touching her resources and her needs. His enthusiasm in the cause of education found expression in building up Iowa College to its status during the past ten years. When it was destroyed by the great cyclone of 1882, he went to work with heroic courage to secure funds for rebuilding its ruined edifices. In this he was remarkably successful. He raised \$100,000, of which amount he was himself a liberal giver. Wherever he went he woke up the spirit of Christian

benevolence and charity. The college regained more than it lost, and it was not many months until it was in better condition than ever before. In every sphere of effort in which he labored, whether in the pulpit, in the State Legislature or in Congress, for the cause of education, or as a builder and manager of railroads, Mr. Grinnell proved himself an exceptionally able and useful man. During his last illness he wrote his recollections of men and events, which appeared in a printed book after his death. In this work, written while suffering from a most painful disease, he paid generous and kindly tributes to scores of men with whom he had been associated during his long and busy public life. All his old-time friendships seemed beautifully revived when the hand of affliction rested upon him most heavily. This book, as Professor Parker so pertinently states, is the best record of his life. It presents his autobiography from his youth to near the time of his death, and sets forth the hopes and ambitions which were the inspiration of his busy life, and makes an enduring and beautiful record of his abiding friendships. It deserves a place in all our public libraries.

A PRIMITIVE CAPITOL BUILDING.

We are apt to associate the edifice where legislative bodies meet, and Governors and Councils exercise their authority, with some degree of elegance, stability and solidity. But there was a wide departure from this ideal in the first Capitol of Wisconsin, when the region now known as Iowa formed a part of that large Territory. President Jackson approved the bill establishing the territorial government of Wisconsin, April 20, 1836. Ten days later General Henry Dodge was appointed Governor. The 9th day of September following Governor Dodge issued his proclamation, stating the number of members of the council and house of representatives that each of the six counties

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