

Two Visitors

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ments, library shelves, etc. That it is a most faithful likeness, is the opinion of all who have known Governor Kirkwood. It shows him as he was, in splendid physical health, a man of great mental power, to whom firmness and decision would be easy and natural, but who was withal kind and benignant in the highest degree—one whom the humblest citizen could meet on equal terms. As an artist, Mr. Yewell has achieved more than national fame, but there can be little doubt that this is his master-piece, the crowning work of his life.

TWO VISITORS.

In one of the early days in May, the Historical Department was honored by a call from the venerable widow of Mr. N. H. Parker. Possibly very few of our readers will recall the name, but Mr. Parker was a man whose memory should be preserved in the Annals of Iowa as one who "did the State some service" long ago. Away back in 1856 he wrote a little book entitled "Iowa as It Is." This volume gave only a partial, but yet a very just statement of the resources of our State. So far as it went, the account was a glowing one. The book was widely advertised, and well known at the time, and without doubt was the means of inducing thousands of people to settle within our borders. This was at a time when every Western State, by reason of necessities real or imagined, needed immigration. Mr. Parker's book had a large circulation in the East, and in its time was productive of much good. But it soon went out of print, and at present copies are only found in the houses of pioneer settlers, or in second-hand book stores. At one time the author edited a paper in Davenport, but removed to St. Louis, where he attempted to issue a work relating to Missouri, similar to his Iowa venture. But from a combination of unforeseen circumstances, it did not prove a success. He died probably twenty years ago, and is well nigh forgotten in this State, where his labors were most useful. Mrs. Parker came to Des Moines to visit old friends, with whom she remained several weeks. She is apparently upwards of seventy years of

age, but still in vigorous health, and a lady of high culture and intelligence.

Another caller was the venerable ex-U. S. Senator, Gen. Geo. W. Jones, of Dubuque, who was in attendance upon the Supreme Court, in which he appeared as a party to a suit. He was born in 1804, and is close upon ninety years of age. But he is still in the enjoyment of excellent health, and is as fastidious regarding the polish of his boots, the twist in his mustache, and the ringlets in his hair, as deferential in his treatment of ladies, as kind to little children, as breezy and full of good-fellowship when meeting old friends, as when the writer saw him gliding about the floor of the U. S. Senate in 1852, and throwing salutations to the beauties in the gallery. At that time we also saw Henry Dodge, of Wisconsin, and A. C. Dodge, of Iowa—father and son—Senators from their respective States. But the Dodges are dead and gone, and aside from Gen. Jones, few, if any, who were in the Senate in those days of compromise and pro-slavery rule, remain alive. Our aged ex-Senator has led a useful, active life, but he must be one of that class of men whom Dryden had in mind when he wrote these lines:

*"Some few, by temperance taught, approaching slow,
To distant fate by easy journeys go."*

With his habitual care of his health, the aged statesman may still be spared through many happy years. While in the Historical Rooms he sat down and quickly wrote a letter, holding his pen with a firm, steady grasp, finishing the page without blot or erasure, and producing a fine piece of manuscript. He signed his name very handsomely over a set of flourishes almost as elaborate and much neater than those which always accompanied the autograph of Charles Dickens.

SAVE THE PAMPHLETS.

Among the various materials for history which accumulate in libraries or general collections, pamphlets are always valued very highly. This is no doubt due to the fact that each one

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