

Save the Pamphlets

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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

is in itself a complete publication—at least from the standpoint of the author. One side, certainly, of a question is apt to be exhaustively treated; and then farther than this, they almost invariably point the way to other sources of information. Here and there an individual makes a specialty of collecting them. It is by no means infrequent that such collections run up into the thousands, becoming very valuable historically, and commanding high prices.

Such accumulations are occasionally offered for sale by the dealers in second-hand books. A large price could no doubt be very readily obtained for a complete collection of pamphlets issued in our State. But useful and valuable as they are it is a matter of doubt whether there is any considerable Iowa collection in existence. Probably Bishop Perry has saved up more in his large private collections in Davenport than can be found in the possession of any other public or private library in the State. It is the fate of these publications to be considered as ephemeral, and scattered and destroyed like the issues of the daily press. We remember many of these Iowa publications, issued years ago, but of which it would be impossible to find a single copy at this time.

These thoughts bring us to what we desire to say, more especially to our newspaper friends throughout the State. The Historical Department of Iowa is now making every possible effort to gather up copies of all Iowa pamphlets of the present and the past. If our friends of the press who receive this publication will kindly aid us in this matter, not only by setting forth our desires in this direction through their columns, but by a little personal effort themselves, as opportunities occur, a great deal can yet be accomplished. No pamphlet is so trivial as not to be valuable in a State collection. Especially desirable are catalogues of colleges and schools, proceedings of religious or secular bodies, important law cases, premium lists of agricultural societies, addresses, sermons, those issued for the purpose of making business interests known, and all relating to the history of towns, counties, or particular regions—in short, every species of publications in this direction.

There are hundreds of pamphlets no doubt, *in the offices of lawyers and in editorial rooms*, of no use to their present owners, at present left to gather accumulations of dust, but which would be regarded as prizes by the Historical Department. In fact, we have assisted, during the past three years, in extracting from such "innocuous desuetude" a large number of very valuable publications. Some of these same pamphlets—Iowa pamphlets, too—are worth \$50 each, and yet they might almost any day have been sacrificed in kindling a fire, or have been destroyed in a conflagration. Especially precious are most of the reports and other public documents published by the State prior to 1860. We shall prize gifts of all such publications, and feel deeply grateful to those who assist us in obtaining them.

A GOLDEN WEDDING.

We are sure that thousands of Iowa people, as well as many far beyond our borders, were heartily rejoiced to learn that Hon. Theodore S. Parvin and his excellent wife were spared to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage, on the 17th day of May last. It is seldom, indeed, that two such useful and harmonious lives are spared to each other for half a century after their union in marriage. That Mr. Parvin, in many directions, has been one of the most useful, as he has been one of the best known and most distinguished men in Iowa, goes without saying. This is a truth known to everybody. His reputation rests upon his own personal merits—his own hard work—and has not risen from any adventitious aids, as of politics, wealth or social surroundings. He has hewed out his own career, and it has been as remarkable in point of success as it is unique in character. He is one man among a million. We know not where another could be found capable of becoming so distinctly useful in the highly intellectual paths which he has pursued. From the day that he entered upon his duties as Private Secretary to Robert Lucas, the first Governor of Iowa Territory, until now, the man's head has been full of

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