

A Life of Theodore S. Parvin

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ing the splendid portrait. On behalf of the State, in an eloquent address, this gift was appropriately accepted by Governor Albert B. Cummins, who also to some extent reviewed his distinguished career. The closest attention was given to the speakers by the audience. The hall was well filled and the assemblage was presided over by Hon. P. M. Casady, a State Senator of 1848-50, who left his impress upon those times by reporting and securing the passage of a bill which prescribed the geographical limits and provided names for fifty of the counties in the western half of Iowa. Judge Springer's autobiography was printed in *THE ANNALS*, Vol. II, 3d series, pp. 569-85, and his name will be found in the indexes of all the volumes. The reception of this excellent portrait thus rounds out the efforts of relatives, appreciative friends, and the State, to keep green the memory of the illustrious pioneer.

A LIFE OF THEODORE S. PARVIN.

Shortly after the death of this distinguished pioneer, the subject of writing his biography was discussed to some extent, but mainly, as we suppose, in Masonic circles. While his life was so largely devoted to Masonry, he was yet a large factor in the early history of the Territory and State, as well as in its educational development in later years. Few long lives are so completely devoted to the public service and the public welfare. And now that some time has elapsed since he went to his grave, full of years and honors, those who knew him intimately can form a fair judgment as to the value of the story of his life. In these times the rush of events soon covers every grave with the mantle of oblivion, but wherever we have heard the subject discussed, an earnest desire is invariably expressed that the story of Parvin's life shall be told, for the benefit of future generations, and the preservation of much valuable history. Primarily, this task should be undertaken under the auspices of the Masonic

Order, but the story of his useful career in other fields of effort and usefulness should by no means be neglected. It is to be hoped that this subject may receive early attention from the Masonic Grand Lodge, as well as from his more immediate friends.

DEWEY AND INGHAM.

During the years of the civil war in which the State of Iowa was incurring heavy expenditures incident to the raising, arming, subsisting, and sending to the front her volunteer soldiers, she had the services of two men—John N. Dewey and Schuyler R. Ingham—who deserve to be held in grateful remembrance. They were members of the board of commissioners named as such in the first section of chapter 10. laws of the extra session of the 8th general assembly, “an act providing for auditing all accounts and disbursements arising under the call for volunteers from Iowa, and also for all men organized as State militia of Iowa.” This act was approved May 28, 1861. These gentlemen were associated at times with other well-known business men in the discharge of their onerous and most responsible duties, but the consensus of opinion during these years gave them the largest measure of credit for the excellent work performed by the commission. In this work they “did the State some service,” a fact which was known and appreciated in every community from which soldiers enlisted for the Union armies. This involved great expense and men were found quite ready to “make money” by it. But when an account came to be acted upon by Dewey and Ingham it had to pass through a most critical ordeal, though they were never charged with acting unjustly, or in a spirit of narrow, pinching economy. Each was a man of positive convictions, and from their determination to pay no padded bills against the State or general government they could not be swerved in the smallest degree. Perhaps the highest compliment that can be paid

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