

A Forgotten Naturalist

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A FORGOTTEN NATURALIST.

We have given a large space in this number of THE ANNALS to an article by Mr. T. J. Fitzpatrick, on the life and labors of C. S. Rafinesque, one of the most learned and versatile original investigators in the great field of American natural history. Excepting to those who have been engaged in the same studies, the name of this traveler, explorer and scientist, has long been practically unknown. Some account of his life and labors has appeared from time to time, but these works have been published in limited editions, now out of print, and not within the reach of either general or scientific readers. It has seemed desirable that THE ANNALS should contain a record of his life and writings. Mr. Fitzpatrick, who has doubtless collected more books and papers relating to Rafinesque than any other man in the west, supplies the information in the article now published; which will be followed by a complete bibliography of his publications. Rafinesque was a most interesting character, eccentric, but very learned. He has been and still is a subject of much controversy, touching the merit of his work, but he assuredly has a fixed place in the annals of natural history. A most interesting quotation is made in this article from the late Gen. George W. Jones, of this State, who was a student under Prof. Rafinesque in Transylvania University, Lexington, Ky. This article points the way to sources of information for those who would make a comprehensive study of his life and writings.

COLONEL THOMAS COX.

Until recently this Iowa pioneer, well known in his time, had long since ceased to occupy a place in the public mind. Indeed, he was practically forgotten, though his name continued to appear in the lists of our territorial legislators. Before coming to Iowa he had been elected to both branches

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