

## Dedication of the Iowa Monuments

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ods of control and procedure. Legislatures were generally restricted in the range of their powers; executives were curbed, their legislative veto in some cases being narrowly limited or denied, their appointive and supervisory powers sharply limited and dissipated by the requirement of popular election of purely administrative officials and short tenure; judges were elected and for short terms. As is usual with political and social agitation the reaction against the manifest evils of the first decades of the century was excessive. It went too far. Constitution makers injected into their State charters many administrative provisions not appropriate. The convention at Iowa City, although ardently democratic, in the sense that its delegates insisted upon the supremacy of the people over all departments of the State government, did not go so far as to eliminate central executive control by denying the Governor the veto or general appointive powers and authoritative supervision.

Iowa's Constitution contains more specifications as to what officers shall be elected and for how long than good constitutional law calls for. But in the large, the convention at Iowa City realized that there are two great functions in government—that of legislation and that of execution. In legislation a democracy should and must control through their representatives in a General Assembly, who express and formulate the wishes or the will of the citizens. In the execution of their will, however, the people attain the economy and efficiency in government they desire by concentrating control in the head of the administration, thereby insuring both accountability and responsibility. F. I. H.

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#### DEDICATION OF THE IOWA MONUMENTS.

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The recent visit of the Iowa Monument Commission to southern battle-fields was a trip of historical interest to the State. The government has established national military parks on three of the greatest battle-fields of the west; at Pittsburg Landing, where the battle of Shiloh was fought April 6 and 7, 1862; at Vicksburg, the scene of the mem-

orable siege of May and June, 1863; and at Chattanooga, November 24th and 25th, the same year. At Shiloh and Vicksburg nearly half of all the Iowa troops in the service at those dates were engaged and held everywhere prominent and critical positions.

The itinerary for the several dedications left Des Moines November 12th and returned the morning of the 26th. Vicksburg was first visited, where two days were spent reviewing the old Union and Confederate lines and earthworks, many of them still intact and others restored, inspecting the Iowa brigade and regimental monuments and tablets, and making formal dedication of all of the sites of the imposing and beautiful State memorial. Historical and patriotic reports were made by Chairman J. F. Merry and Secy. H. H. Rood, after which Gov. Cummins gave one of his inimitable addresses, replete in every part with historic and eloquent tributes to the gallant men who had there made glorious American history.

Governor Vardaman of Mississippi was on the platform and on the program to follow. The Iowa people were wondering if he would devote his address to a fervid defense of the Southern Confederacy, as on previous occasions when the Illinois Commission had visited the city, but on this occasion he showed that he could be as courteous to Iowa as Iowa had been to Mississippi. His eloquent and poetic address was in the happiest mood and added much to the enjoyment of the occasion.

Colonel Charles A. Clark of Cedar Rapids, the orator of the day, followed with a masterly oration that was an honor to all Iowa. The Secretary of War had assigned the duty of accepting the monuments on behalf of the government to Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, Iowa's distinguished citizen and general in the civil war, and then away in the dusk of evening Maj. S. H. M. Byers recited two of his eloquent poems, one of them written for the occasion. It had been hoped that many of the old veterans who had survived the terrible ordeal of the siege would on this occasion return for a final look upon the scene. This hope, however, was not realized, so great have been the ravages of time. Compar-

tively few men were found able and willing to undertake the trip. The State should honor itself and these remaining veterans and families as far as practicable by publishing and distributing copies of the final report of the Commission's work to all who would prize the volumes. The next place visited was the Andersonville National Cemetery, established many years ago beside the old Andersonville prison stockade in southern Georgia. It would be impossible to describe the scenes, the proceedings and the emotions of this most pathetic gathering. Every place visited and each address was intensely interesting. When the Governor arose to speak, he was so overcome by the flood of surrounding memories that he stood speechless, until his feelings gave utterance to what seemed to those about him, an address marvelous in its appropriateness and completeness.

Another night's ride brought the train to Atlanta Sunday morning in the rain, and to Chattanooga the next morning again in the rain. Nevertheless the whole party took the Incline to the top of Lookout Mountain, on the summit of which New York has recently erected a \$75,000 monument to "The Blue and the Gray." Clambering down the eight hundred steps, the Lookout Mountain battle-field and Iowa monument were reached. After the invocation, brief addresses were made by Colonel Abernethy, General Weaver, H. A. Chambers, a Confederate veteran, and Governor Cummins. In the afternoon the same party ascended, in carriages, the north end of Missionary Ridge, the scene of General Sherman's fierce assault on the Confederate right, Nov. 25, 1863, where the brief exercises were held around the Iowa monument. Capt. Mahlon Head, Hon. Nate Kendall, Capt. J. P. Smartt of Chattanooga, and Governor Cummins being the speakers.

The third and larger Iowa monument at Rossville Gap was dedicated Tuesday afternoon in the presence of a large audience. The Mayor of Chattanooga gave the welcoming address. The other speakers besides the Governor were Capt. John A. Young, chairman of the Commission, Maj. R. D. Cramer, of the old Thirtieth Iowa, Mr. Caldwell, of Chattanooga, and Gen. E. A. Carmon, of the National Park Com-

mission. Leaving Chattanooga the same night, the party reached Johnsonville, on the Tennessee river, next morning, where boats were taken for Pittsburg Landing. Two days were spent here on the interesting fields of Shiloh, the scene of General Grant's first great battle. One day was given to brief but intensely interesting memorial exercises at the eleven regimental monuments erected where the Iowa men were chiefly engaged.

The forenoon of the final day was given to sightseeing and revisiting the old Shiloh church, the Hornet's Nest, the Bloody Pond, the National Cemetery and other points of interest, and at 1:30 the whole surrounding country came to see and hear the final ceremony in front of the beautiful Iowa Memorial. The venerable Dr. A. L. Frisbie of Des Moines had served by invitation at the various dedications. He offered the invocation here in his beautiful spirit. Then followed an array of as brilliant addresses as ever graced any platform by Colonels Bell and Crosley, Governor Cummins, General Weaver and Speaker Kendall of Iowa, Gen. Basil Duke and Major Asquith of Kentucky and Hon. A. K. Abernethy, ex-Speaker of the Tennessee General Assembly.

This exercise completed the mission of the Governor and the Commissions in dedicating Iowa's Memorials on these historic grounds and transferring them to the final care of the general government. Iowa's work on these fields is of the noblest order throughout, and will for all time honor the State.

A. A.

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### THORINGTON'S REPLY.

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James Thorington was for many years a prominent citizen of Davenport and frequently elected to offices of honor and trust in the city and county. He held many clerkships and was for several years sheriff of Scott county. In the year 1854 he was elected to Congress against Stephen Hempstead of Dubuque, who was then serving his last term as Governor of the State. Thorington was a brilliant campaigner, and

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