

Mr. Gue's History of Iowa

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country and placed on the ceiling of the Supreme Court room as the final decorative feature. General Wright described them as consisting of six small subjects and four large allegorical canvases some ten by fourteen feet in size, all of the type of Greek mythology. The four large ones being as follows:

Ceres, the Goddess of Agriculture.

Justice on her throne. To her left stands Columbia, ever ready to sustain her decisions by word or deed. The figure to the right of Justice rejoices that the decision is in her favor. The sitting figure on the right denotes sorrow as the decision is rendered against her, but is content when she finds by examining the law that the decision is according to law. To the left a mother is explaining to her son the laws.

Columbia reigning on her throne. Above the globe in unity with the Goddess of Justice, the patrons of the States come to pay them their homage, bringing with them little children, which represent the territories. Iowa, who is a special favorite in Columbia's household, is seen sitting on the steps of the throne with a club and coat of arms, ever ready to defend her friend (Columbia) in case of need. In front of the throne is chiseled in everlasting rock the memorable date 1776, the foundation of the Republic. The American Eagle is proudly soaring over all, holding in his beak the historical emblem "E. Pluribus Unum."

Justice and Peace represented as ruling over the land bringing prosperity and plenty, culture and happiness, while rebellion is restrained and smitten down by Justice's strong right arm.

The canvases were remounted by Mr. T. I. Stoner, who decorated the building, and were restored by Charles Atherton Cumming, the Des Moines artist.

E. R. H.

MR. GUE'S HISTORY OF IOWA.

I have been surprised and annoyed to learn that in some very intelligent quarters in this State, I have been accredited with some sort of responsibility for the *History of Iowa* written and published by the late Hon. Benjamin F. Gue. This is

wholly an error. True, I gave him the use of the resources of the Historical Department of the State, as I would have given them to any other citizen who was engaged in historical work, but no line and no statement in that publication can be attributed to me or to my influence or agency. If Mr. Gue were living he would cordially endorse this statement. Whatever of credit or criticism properly appertains to this work should inure wholly to Mr. Gue, and nothing whatever of that nature should be attributed to me.

CHARLES ALDRICH.

NOTABLE DEATHS.

FRANK WAYLAND PALMER was born at Manchester, Ind., Oct. 11, 1827; he died in Chicago, Dec. 3, 1907. We are of the opinion that he was named for Francis Wayland, the illustrious educator, but that he changed his name in later years to "Frank," as he was familiarly called by his friends. After receiving a common school education he learned the trade of a printer in Jamestown, New York. From there he went to New York City, where he worked as a compositor for several months, eventually returning to Jamestown, where in 1846 he became joint proprietor and editor of *The Journal*, the old paper upon which he had served his time as an apprentice. He was elected to the New York Legislature in 1851, and re-elected in 1853, serving two terms in the House. In 1858 he removed to Dubuque, Iowa, where he became the editor and one of the proprietors of *The Daily Times*. At the session of the Iowa Legislature in 1860, he was elected State Printer, his competitors being J. B. Howell of *The Keokuk Gate City*, and John Teesdale of *The Des Moines Register*. He served as State Printer of Iowa four terms, resigning in 1869. In 1868 he was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives, and re-elected two years afterwards. He removed to Chicago in 1873, acquiring an interest in *The Inter Ocean*, of which he was editor-in-chief until 1876. He was appointed Postmaster of that city in 1877, and served until 1885. He was appointed Government Printer in 1889, serving until 1894, when he was removed by President Cleveland, who appointed a Democrat in his place. Upon the election of President Harrison he was reappointed. In this latter capacity he served altogether eleven years, during which time he projected the new Government Printing-office which was built at a cost of several millions of dollars. That great undertaking, not only in the construction of the building, but in its inception and all its interior appointments, was his work pure and simple. It is unquestionably the greatest printing-office in existence, without an equal on either side of the ocean. It will remain his monument, so far as any such public work can be considered any man's monument, for all time. It has been considered a work of great extravagance, but this, if true, was made so by the demands of Congress upon Mr. Palmer to execute the public printing. His own administration was a most distinguished success. While he had able assistance in the work, from men whom he had appointed and called to his aid, the development of that great public work was due to him. His administra-

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