

Iowa Memorial Sculpture

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countries, and sometimes troublous financial times; of organization, promotion, construction and operation of railroad enterprises, made possible and made perfect only perhaps through applications of the methods and employment of the men, produced through the discipline of military life. There are the intimate thoughts of men who fought the civic battles of our state and country, and after all perhaps more precious than the rest the records of one private citizen of America. Except for two years in Congress and five in the Army, all the General's life has been that of a private citizen. Of great distinction in this respect, has been that part in which he figured, as disclosed by materials of which the Historical Department is the custodian, as commissioner or other factor in the erection of many statues and monuments to his great military associates.

IOWA MEMORIAL SCULPTURE.

One recalls a number of public memorial sculptures in Iowa, though it is yet a young State. In Crapo Park, Burlington, is an equestrian statue in bronze of Gen. John M. Corse; in Keokuk one of Gen. Samuel R. Curtis. These are replicas of two of the four by Carl Rohl-Smith, modeled as details for the Soldiers and Sailors Monument at Des Moines. This monument is the most ambitious work of its character the State has essayed. The commemoration of her part in the Civil War is the theme most often expressed in memorial sculpture within as beyond her borders. She has done commendable work on southern fields. There have not been many private donors of such art works to the public. At Clermont are six bronzes which were brought into existence by the taste and generosity of Governor Larrabee. These are of Lincoln, Farragut and William T. Sherman by George E. Bissell; Grant, David B. Henderson and Grenville M. Dodge by J. Massey Rhind. In the art collections of the Historical Department is a fine marble bust in bas relief of William Pitt Fessenden. This was formerly the property of Governor Grimes, and

by his widow was presented to this collection. There are busts in marble of the founder and curator, Charles Aldrich, Governor and Mrs. Larrabee, and of Senator C. J. A. Ericson, by Pugi Brothers; a plaster replica of the Rhind Henderson; a bust of the late D. N. Richardson of Davenport by Rohl-Smith; one of the late Lieutenant Governor Matt Parrott and one of the Indian Chief Keokuk. In the Adjutant General's Office is a bronze bust of Grenville M. Dodge, by Rohl-Smith. There are medallions and relief work in portraiture and allegory from the studios of recognized and leading sculptors in and about the capitol building and on the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. The whole collection composes an expression of the Iowa public in memorial sculpture not lacking in value or merit and giving promise of a future in this field.

Significant additions are soon to be made to the list of Iowa sculpture. One is the placing of a statue of James Harlan in Statuary Hall, Washington. The commission is in the hands of Miss Nellie V. Walker, an Iowa born sculptor of Chicago, whose "Stratton" at Colorado Springs and whose "Her Son," an ideal group, have lately added to her reputation. The Harlan model in clay is almost ready for submission to the Executive Council, on whose approval the statue is to be cast and installed at Washington.

Another is an ideal figure in bronze of Mahaska, the Iowa Indian Chief, to be erected in the city of Oskaloosa. This was modeled in Paris by an Iowa born sculptor, Mr. Sherry E. Fry. It was among his earliest efforts in independent interpretation of ideal thought and its execution gained for him recognition in the front rank of artists. This figure is of heroic proportions. It is to stand on a pedestal some eight feet in height and is to be placed, with appropriate ceremony, in the public square at Oskaloosa. It is presented to the City of Oskaloosa by Mr. James Depew Edmundson, of Des Moines, in memory of his father, the late William Edmundson. The donor was born in Des Moines county, Iowa, in Territorial days. He was a messenger in the Iowa legislature of 1860. He was for most of his life a resident of Council Bluffs, in

which city stands as his tribute to the memory of the wife of his youth who lies buried there, the Jennie Edmundson Hospital. For some six years Mr. Edmundson has resided in Des Moines. In the annals of the State nothing has been done from private initiative more fittingly to characterize legend and history than will this Mahaska. Tablets on the pedestal, besides bearing the title of Mr. Fry's work MAHASKA, will state that William Edmundson was the sheriff appointed by the legislature for organizing Mahaska county, and the first elected by the public after the county was organized; that the Indian whose name the county bears was a chief of the Iowa tribe of Indians, was ever the friend of the white man, and was a victim of Indian treachery, dying at the hand of an assassin on soil now embraced in Cass county, Iowa.

All the public statuary within the State and all that the State has provided anywhere should be assembled in replica in the Historical Department. It may be done with but trivial expense, no doubt, while the present benefits would be multiplied.

AN IOWA CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.

Fort Madison recently celebrated the centennial of the establishment of the first fort in what is now the State of Iowa. The event was predicated on a report of Lieut. Alpha Kingsley (*Annals of Iowa*, 3d Series, Vol. III, p. 100) made November 22, 1808, to the Secretary of War, Henry Dearborn. The report shows compliance with an order to establish the situation of a fort near the mouth of the Des Moines river. It shows the selection of a site 25 miles above the mouth. It announces the completion of a portion, and the plan of constructing the remainder, of the buildings thought indispensable to the safety of the troops, to the advantage of the Indian trade and for defiance to evil minded savages. Of the Lieutenant's work, all disappeared before the actual settlement of the country began except a huge chimney which resisted the elements far into the memory of living citizens of Fort Madison, and became familiar to river men as "the lone chimney." It was leveled in the course of the improvement of the city.

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