

The Pulpit of H. P. Scholte

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- The Old People's Psalm, with Reminiscences of the Iowa Band. 1895.
 Life of Major-General John M. Corse—Annals of Iowa, 1895-6.
 Col. Wm. Pepperrell, 1647-1734, with portraits.
 Commemoration of Fifty Years' Pastorate, 1846-96, with portraits.
 Words of Life for 1905.
 Schiller Memorial, May 9; 1905.
 Iowa, the First Free State of the Louisiana Purchase. 1905.
 Sixty Years and Other Discourses, with reminiscences and portrait.
 1907.
 William Pitt Fessenden, with medallion portrait. 1908.

THE PULPIT OF H. P. SCHOLTE.

Our museum has received the ancient pulpit from which the Iowa and Michigan Dutch pioneers heard the arguments for their emigration from Holland to America. The mind of the visitor in the museum is strikingly directed by this beautiful and valuable relic and the labels it bears to the times, place and nature of these arguments.

Rev. H. P. Scholte, founder of the Dutch colony which established itself in Lake Prairie Township, Marion County, Iowa, in 1847, and there built the thriving town of Pella, studied for the ministry at the ancient university of Leiden in the kingdom of the Netherlands. After the completion of his theological studies, and proper examination, he received license to preach on October 3, 1832. In November of the same year he received and accepted a call as pastor and preacher of the Reformed church of two little villages in the province of North Brabant. A difference of opinion with regard to doctrinal matters involved him in a controversy with the synod of the Protestant Church of the Netherlands and led to his suspension in 1834. On the receipt of the notice of suspension H. P. Scholte and his congregation separated themselves from the Protestant church of the Netherlands and formed an independent denomination. Many Protestants in other parts of the country sympathized with him and joined his movement. After five years of persecution, the new denomination obtained freedom of religious exercise. Rev. H. P. Scholte in the mean time had severed his connection with the churches in North Brabant and removed to the city of Utrecht, where he

organized a congregation and took charge of its spiritual interests. At Utrecht the services of this congregation were held in a building which formerly was the property of the Roman Catholics of the Clerisy (the Jansenists).

On a tour through Europe in 1907, the Misses Sara and Hanna Nollen, granddaughters of Rev. Scholte, visited Utrecht and there found the pulpit in which he preached, standing in its old place. They obtained possession of it and caused it to be transported to Pella, Iowa, thence to the Iowa State Historical Building in Des Moines.

It will commemorate not only the great life of Rev. Scholte but the lives of thrift, patriotism and intelligence of all the band of his compatriots.

CORRESPONDENCE OF HENRY O'REILLY.

The Des Moines Navigation and Railroad Company was an important institution in Iowa affairs from 1854 to 1858. The principal actor in its earlier affairs was Henry O'Reilly. A volume of autograph letters written to and from the Des Moines Valley by him and members of his family in 1854, 1855 and 1856 has been acquired by the Historical Department. More extended attention will be paid to these in the ANNALS at a later time.

Just now it is sufficient to note that his communications in 1856 are sometimes written on stationery bearing the following:

THE "DEMOINE NAVIGATION AND RAILROAD COMPANY."
ORGANIZED MAY 6, 1854.

UNDER THE CODE OF IOWA, FOR FIFTY YEARS, WITH POWER OF CONTINUANCE.

Endowed with the Lands and Franchises accruing from grants made
by the Governments of the United States and of the
State of Iowa.

Its chief object is to improve the Demoine Valley, extending 520 miles from the junction of Illinois, Missouri and Iowa, through Iowa, into Minnesota:

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