

## Annals of Iowa [Works of Art; Brighton Road Bridge]

ISSN 0003-4827

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### Recommended Citation

"Annals of Iowa [Works of Art; Brighton Road Bridge]." *The Annals of Iowa* 14 (1924), 468-468.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.4878>

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Judge Rorer arranged the clippings which we reproduce in facsimile, the only way we can present the matter as it was at rest in his mind. Chapters are possible to be written on these clippings. They reveal their original and edited diction, style and composition, and font limitations of early newspapers. The names actual and feigned of our first big men are seen. Miss Rorer states that "Dear Ben," however, was but a fancy of her father and represented no particular individual. "A Wolverine" rather than his antecedent "Bear State" nickname was used to frustrate his pursuers in the debate.

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#### WORKS OF ART

It is not necessary to invite the attention of the City Council to the fact that Des Moines has a more miserable set of sidewalks in it than any other city in this world. There is hardly a sidewalk in town from Capitol Hill to the western terminus of the corporation, which is not a disgrace to the civilization of the age. The reconstruction of the plank walk on the east side of the river was a wretched failure. The job was slighted, botched, and murdered! We'll bet the best calumet in town that an honest man, blindfolded, with no other tool than a chisel, and with his left hand tied behind his back, and with no previous knowledge of mechanics, can construct a better plank walk in two days than the one which topples, and tumbles, and groans, and creaks, and gapes all along the lowlands on the other side of the bridge! Who'll take that bet?—*Daily State Register*, Des Moines, Iowa, August 19, 1862. (In the newspaper collection of Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.)

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We have heard much complaint of the almost impassable condition of the bridge on the Brighton road northeast of town. As it is the duty of our town authorities to keep this bridge in good condition we hope that it will be immediately attended to. We say we hope something may be done, but we have no expectation.—*The Fairfield Ledger*, January 29, 1852. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

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