

From the Plains

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Iowa"; since, if they follow their Indian namesake, they will go everywhere and need watching to be caught.

In pronunciation, the best usage puts the accent on "I" in the word "Iowa," and gives the final "a" the sound as in Africa, Asia, and the like—not I-o-way, but I-o-wah, more nearly. The Indians had no accent, in the proper sense, but a stress on each syllable alike. So in "Keokuk," the accent is on the syllable "Ke." It is hardly needful for old residents to be told this; but abroad these names are often strangely spoken.

"Des Moines," Mr. LeClaire says, is a corruption of "Moins," in French, meaning "The Less" as applied to the river, and not as it is commonly understood, "le riviere," Des Moines—river of monks, but "le riviere Des Moins" (if the French is allowable,) "the less river." So that, in reality the spelling of the name should be if compounded into one word, "Demoins," which, by dropping the "s" in pronunciation would be as near the French and Indian, as the English tongue can well be brought. Thus much is said of names of places; which, if not soon fixed by those who [know] their significance, will soon pass away, and be known only in the romance of the past.—*Iowa City Journal*. Reprinted in *The Democratic Union*, Keosauqua, Iowa, July 29, 1854. (In the Newspaper Division of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.)

FROM THE PLAINS

During the past week several men have returned from the Plains; some from as far out as Fort Laramie. They report grass plenty, and the emigrants are generally getting along well. Some few cases of cholera, small pox, and measles, and a few deaths. They bring no news particularly interesting.—*The Frontier Guardian*, Kaneshville (Council Bluffs), Iowa, June 12, 1850. (In the Newspaper Division of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.)

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