An Almost Forgotten Contest
one concern was the law. And he could not and would not
make himself think that the adverse opinion of the legisla-
ture was necessarily vox dei, if the law plainly said the con-
trary. Nor would he admit that a count of heads gave one
the better of an argument, even if the fates decreed his re-
moval.

In his communications answering charges made against
him by his belligerent opponents, he expresses his dissent
in language that is always notable for its restraint under
rather irritating circumstances. His enemies did not always
proceed against him openly. Many of their criticisms he re-
fuses to notice because he deems it beneath his dignity to char-
acterize them. His irony is pungent at times when he refers
to legislative proceedings taken not with a view to the public
welfare, but solely with a view to trapping him.

AN ALMOST FORGOTTEN CONTEST.

Elsewhere in this number, Mr. Tacitus Hussey of Des
Moines, relates the history of the effort of Iowa fishermen
and sportsmen to secure a fishway in the dam across the
Des Moines river at Benton'sport. This fight was a long one
and unsuccessful. It was led from beginning to end by Mr.
Hussey, who tells the story in his pleasant style. The Bonap-
artes Dam was one that was built to render the Des Moines
river navigable under the old scheme of improvement. It
was erected before any special interest was taken in the direc-
tion of fishing. When the fishermen discovered that it was
an obstacle in the way of the fishes in their spring migration
up stream, they were very anxious to have a fishway con-
structed, or to have the dam removed. The Messrs. Meek,
however, had purchased it at an authorized auction sale, and
were averse to incurring any expense in the matter of es-
ablishing a fishway. They had legal rights in the premises
which could not be molested, as Mr. Hussey conclusively
shows. The dam, therefore, remained until the high water
of 1903 when it was partially swept away. It has never been
reconstructed and will probably never be,—a result which will be entirely satisfactory to the fishermen.

Beginning with pioneer times, several generations of the Meek family have been engaged in large business operations at Bonaparte. Their flouring mill and woolen factory was one of the most important pioneer enterprises ever undertaken in southern Iowa. They always performed excellent work, whether in the manufacture of woolen cloths or bread-stuffs. Their customers came from long distances in northern Missouri and southern Iowa. Scarcely another business enterprise could have been of so much importance to the pioneers. Early settlers always speak of the Meeks in terms of the highest respect, paying just tributes to the importance of their mill and factory. Even the fishermen themselves no longer indulge in any expressions regarding the Meeks except those of highest commendation.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE JOURNALS OF GOVERNOR ROBERT LUCAS.

The Robert Lucas Journal of the War of 1812, During the Campaign Under General William Hull. Edited by John C. Parish, p. IX, 103. Published at Iowa City, Iowa, in 1906, by the State Historical Society of Iowa. Edition limited to 400 copies.

Executive Journal of Iowa, 1838-1841. Edited by Benjamin F. Shambaugh, Professor of Political Science in the State University of Iowa, pp. XXV, 341. Published at Iowa City, Iowa, in 1906, by the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The Historical Society at Iowa City is indeed to be congratulated upon the good fortune that has enabled it to publish these Journals of Governor Robert Lucas, and the public is under lasting obligations to Mr. Parish and Dr. Shambaugh for their labors in discovery and preparation for the press. The Journal of the War of 1812 is reprinted from Professor Shambaugh's Journal of History and Politics. Both volumes appear in handsome form. The binding is attractive and firm. The paper is 'Old Stratford,' heavy and compact, hand-made, with deckle edges and gilt tops. The type is large and clear, the lines are leaded and the margins broad. These volumes are in fact éditions de luxe by far excelling anything heretofore put out by the Historical Society. Certainly, if it is necessary or peremptorily desirable that documentary