Some Additional Materials on the Spirit Lake Massacre
THE DISCOVERY OF THE SPIRIT LAKE MASSACRE.

BY ORLANDO C. HOWE.

On the 15th day of March, 1857, our party, consisting of Robert Wheelock, B. F. Parmenter, C. Snyder and O. C. Howe, after a tedious trip of more than three weeks, came in sight of the beautiful lakes in Dickinson County, Iowa. We had been exposed to the storms of that terrible winter and apparently had reached the promised land. The weather in the afternoon had softened, the clouds vanished for a time, and the shining sun over these groves seemed like a welcome. Our point of view was from the highlands east of the southern point of the Okoboji groves.

Mr. Wheelock and I had been at the lakes in the preceding fall for a week or more, leaving on the last day of November, 1856. While there, we stayed at the cabin of Joel Howe and selected for a town site a tract near the southwesterly shore

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1Mr. Smith's article following gives the date as the 16th, and that date corresponds with Mr. Howe's account of each day's happenings until they reached Ft. Dodge.—Ed.