

ment of historical work has come not from the people but from their servants in official relation to the work. Success in the accumulation of valuable materials, the favor with which such enterprises are looked upon by men of local prestige as well as those of wider influence and more extended fields of endeavor, together with the remarkable popularity the institutions meet at the hands and in the attentions of the ordinary, practical, substantial tax-paying citizen, invariably removes official discouragement and entrenches the institutions and their administration in the public policy. Even the educational institutions do not enjoy more freedom from the hazards of local or temporary conditions, and are no more remote from the exigencies of politics and personal design.

The policy of the State of Iowa seems now to be firmly and happily fixed in this respect. Ample equipment is almost complete for the present advantageous handling and accessible arrangement of our priceless historical library and the collection in art portraiture and museum materials. Financial support now corresponds with the favor these meet in the esteem of scholar and lay patron. They are rapidly attaining a high value in the estimation of the public. They will prove valuable stores for future Iowa peoples. This growth, from its origin in the mind of one man who had approvingly observed the similar efforts of other states and nations a quarter of a century ago, has been little short of marvelous. With popular support grown from a few scattered but far sighted patriots in editorial and legislative places to a purpose common in all the State's positive forces where none condemn, few gainsay and a rich and generous people highly applaud, the prospect is little less than inspiring. Former meagerness of official support is now changed to positive zeal in a large number of the best and strongest men in official life to discharge a recognized obligation to the present and future Iowa public.

E. R. H.

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AN EARLY IOWA MILITARY HOSPITAL.—The following interesting item appeared in the *Iowa Religious News-Letter*, published at Dubuque, in the issue of August, 1862:

Having a leisure hour the other day, at Keokuk, we went with a friend through the different wards and apartments of the Military Hospital in

that place. Those of our readers who have friends there will be glad to know that though there are twelve hundred patients in the Hospital, they are all provided for with the utmost possible comfort. Perfect cleanliness is apparent throughout the establishment, and the building is so admirably ventilated that we perceived far less of the peculiar odor of the sick room than is common in connection with sickness in the best ordered private dwellings. Would that all the sick and wounded soldiers of the country were as well cared for as those at Keokuk.

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### PHINEAS M. CASADY.

After a long and successful business career, this venerable gentleman has resigned the presidency of his bank and retired to private life. When he first came to Iowa he settled in Des Moines, and has been very successful, participating in its business affairs, and proving himself in all respects an important element in the development of its varied interests. He was chosen to the State Senate in 1846 and served the regular term of four years. During the second session he was chairman of the committee on township and county organization, and had the honor to report the bill which named fifty counties in the western half of the State. Many of these counties bear names which were suggested by Judge Casady. He was in all respects a useful senator and the record which he made during his four years' service is one which will endure. He was also elected district judge, but he resigned before entering upon active service on the bench. He has seemed ever to prize the station of a private citizen devoted to legitimate business pursuits rather than the distinctions arising from politics. He has always been known for the beauty of his character and the uprightness of his dealings with his fellow men. No man in the State enjoys a wider measure of respect, and now that he has so gracefully retired he will carry with him the hearty good-will of everybody who knows him. He was born in 1818, and is now in his 89th year, but he has retained to a remarkable degree his health and vigor, and we trust with many years of happiness and business prosperity still before him.

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