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HISTORICAL

JAY AMOS BARRETT

It is a saying of the eminent professor of English literature in our midst, that "what people are prepared to receive, whether by grace or by culture, they receive most gladly." The bits of history that may appear from week to week in this part of The Courier, I offer to readers who have known a great master of history and learned of him. The editors of this paper think that both by grace and by culture Courier readers are ready to receive gladly the true stories of the growth and development of Lincoln and the state of which it is the head.

This column is not necessarily to be confined to the history of Lincoln. In the nature of things, however, there will be much of biography, reminiscence and description from the unwritten annals of this place. The citizens of a unique city in a unique state are justly proud of Lincoln. I shall not forget in my business of collecting the history of Nebraska, that there is no Lincoln historical society, as I trust there will be sometime, and no Lancaster county society to preserve the history of the growth of population, wealth and culture in the outlying districts. The men who would have done that, had they been in other counties, here gave their time to the State Historical Society, which now, through their efforts, is just entering upon its period of greater usefulness to the citizens of Nebraska. In my care of its library and interests, it is in my heart to set apart a corner or a shelf or a case for a special collection of Lincoln books and manuscripts. There is ample room, and it requires no special organization for those who love Lincoln to bring together here the material that tells the story of its progress. I hope that this suggestion will be taken up, for it is high time a collection of books and relics were being gathered for Lincoln.

Those who have been here since the village of Lincoln became the city of Lincoln, will receive a very cordial welcome if they will take pains to communicate with the editor of this column. He will be found most of the time at the quarters of the State Historical Society, in the university library building.

Among the acts of the fifth session of our state legislature, is a joint resolution accepting the work of the commission appointed to locate the seat of government, and releasing their bondsmen. The words of the resolution are simple and do not betray much of their real importance. That commission was the one which chose the name of Lincoln. In the transfer of the capital from Omaha to Lincoln the exigencies of the case seemed to demand a great deal of irregular procedure, and the commissioners were in considerable unrest until the legislature accepted their work. For example, the money that came from the sale of lots at the new capital city,

should have been turned over to the state treasurer, by law. But the commissioners knew from his declarations that the treasurer, Augustus Kountz, intended not to pay out any of the money for the erection of a new capital. They therefore retained all the revenues in their own hands, placing it in one of the old banks of the city—the old State National Bank, if I am not mistaken—and there they kept it until they reported to the next legislature.

So much by way of introducing some of the incidents connected with the removal of the capital to our city. One of the unrecorded incidents is related by Thomas Kennard who was then secretary of state. This one is of particular interest, because it is about the removal of the seal of the state. It may be possible to claim successfully that with the seal went the capital. Mr. Kennard lived about twenty-two miles north of Omaha. Driving to that place one Sunday morning, he quietly entered the secretary's office in the old capitol which stood where the high school building now does, placed the sacred seal beneath his coat, and unbeknown to anyone drove westward toward the new location of the capital. He reached Ashland Sunday evening, where he remained for the night, and on Monday he appeared with the seal at Lincoln. In Hayes' and Cox's History of Lincoln, chapter viii, is told how the library was brought to Lincoln by Mr. J. T. Beach.

(First publication Oct. 26.)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS.
 In County Court, within and for Lancaster county, Nebraska, October 1895, in the matter of the estate of R. P. Lawton, deceased.

TO THE CREDITORS OF SAID ESTATE:
 You are hereby notified, That I will sit at the County Court room in Lincoln, in said county, on the 31st day of January, 1896, and again on the 30th day of April, 1896, to examine all claims against said estate, with a view to their adjustment and allowance. The time limited for the presentation of claims against said estate is six months, from the 29th day of October, A. D. 1895, and the time limited for payment of debts is one year from said 29th day of October 1895.

Notice of this proceeding is ordered published four consecutive weeks in THE COURIER, a weekly newspaper published in this state.

Witness my hand and the seal of said County Court this 24th day of October, 1895.

[SEAL] JOSEPH WURZBURG,
 Nov 16, County Judge.

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