

ANNALS OF IOWA

January, 1871.

COL. JOHN A. GARRETT

BY A. K. CAMPBELL

One of the great results of our late civil war was the development of so much that was worthy and heroic in the American people which times of Peace never could have made manifest. No country ever had braver, truer, more self-sacrificing defenders. Let no pains be spared to perpetuate their memory.

John Alexander Garrett, the subject of this sketch, has answered every call of his country since the days of his majority—was present in the last desperate struggle with Santa Anna, in Mexico, was cheered with the sight of the American flag floating triumphantly over the land, and as Captain and Colonel in the armies of the West in the last great effort to maintain the supremacy of the old flag over our noble domain, has done no unimportant part in effecting the grand result of our nation saved, regenerated and raised to the foremost rank among the nations of the world.

He was born Nov. 15, 1824 on a farm adjoining the town of Carlisle, in Sullivan Co., Indiana. He was named for his uncle, John Garrett, and the noted Presbyterian divine, Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D. His father, James Garrett, was born in an early day of Kentucky history, in a fort near Louisville. The family afterward settled in Woodford County, Ky., near Versailles, in one of the finest portions of the famous Blue Grass region. Here James Garrett married Miss Anna Johnston. The Garrett family were hearty and vigorous, living to good old age—the mother reaching about 90 years. The Johnstons were tall, very straight, fair, and rather delicate—some of them were reputed quite fine-looking. Both families are believed to have been of pure Irish descent, although for several generations past all foreign characteristics seem to have disappeared. James Garrett held the rank of Captain in the Indian wars of his day. In 1816 he emigrated to Sullivan County, Indiana, and with that sturdy, determined energy which characterizes the American Pioneer cleared away the forests and made him a home. He was a plain man, neat in dress, and of good habits, proverbially honest, endowed with strong, common sense, and once having decided on what was his duty, he could not be turned aside. Col. G's mother was a loving and devoted wife, a kind and regardful mother; in every relation sincere and true. Both were quiet but active members of the Presbyterian Church, the father being an elder for years before his death, They gave their son all the advantages of an early education that the country would afford, sending him to the best schools of the section. In November, 1841, he was sent by his father to Hanover College. Here he had for a classmate Prof. William Butler, who afterwards was killed by Matt Ward, in Louisville, Ky. Butler, as Supt. of Public Schools, having published a brother of Ward, In 1842 he went to Bloomington to Indiana University. Here among his teachers was Prof. Jacob Ammen, a West Pointer, a noted mathematician, and an accomplished drill master, a General in the late war, and the man who, leading the advance of Buell's army, at the crisis of affairs reinforced Grant at Pittsburg Landing and wrested from the rebels after desperate fighting all the advantages they had gained in the previous fighting. Here under Gen. Ammen Col. Garrett, as a young college student, received that severe military training in a College Company, which laid the foundation for his future reputation as Company and Regimental Commander in the war for the suppression of the Rebellion, Not being able to endure the close confinement incidental to student life, he was obliged to leave the University,

and returned to the home farm for which he had a strong attachment, and with reason, for it was a farm noted through the county for its beauty. During a winter or two following he taught district school with success.

In 1847, having recruited in health, he returned to the University, and was energetically pursuing his studies when the sound of the recruiting drum rolled over the land, and in June, 1847, leaving, as is told of him, a volume of Prescott's Conquest open on his table, he enlisted "for the war" against Mexico- the only student enlisting-in Co. G., 4th Ind. Volunteers. In a few days the regiment was off for the war, arriving at New Orleans on the 4th of July, and there taking a sailing vessel for the mouth of the Rio Grande, which they reached after a weary voyage. Thence they took a steamer up the river to Mier, and from that point they marched by land back to the mouth of the river via Camargo, a Town famous as being the place where Gen. Pillow immortalized his name by digging a ditch on the wrong side of his fortifications. Here our young soldier got very unfavorable impressions of the land of which he had read such romantic description and history—a miserable, degraded people, a poor country—poor dilapidated towns—nothing inviting or redeeming. After a short voyage they reached Vera Cruz, en route for the center of Mexico.

Remaining but a few days at Vera Cruz, they took up their march over the grand National Road—on a forced march to relieve Col. Childs, then besieged at Puebla. The march through the lowlands was terribly exhausting, but was endured with fortitude, and after enduring great suffering from the intense heat, severe march and debilitating effects of the climate of that peculiar tropical region, the army began the ascent to the table lands, and after a few days were refreshed with the mountain air and mountain scenery. Here they passed the picturesque town of Jalapa—a delightful spot of earth which its people call the paradise of the world, and with much reason. It is a place known far and wide for its pretty women; its delightful climate, its delicious fruits its gorgeous flowering shrubs and vines,—even the common flowerless plants of the North here flowering with rich and almost perpetual bloom, and the fruits of temperate and tropical climates combine to enhance the glory of Jalapa;—here is perpetual spring, summer and autumn,—fruits and flowers bud and come to perfection amidst a profusion of fruit and bloom on every side.

Reluctantly leaving Jalapa our army marched on for Puebla. The night following the army was drenched with floods of rain, and the cold winds coming down from the mountains made the sufferings of the army terrible, poorly equipped as they were,—without blankets or over-coats for the most part. The Colonel says he has passed no other night in his experience entitled to compare with it. In one instance a soldier offered a gold eagle for the privilege of sleeping in a government wagon. In those days Uncle Sam's boys were poorly cared for,-rations were poor, and seven dollars a month was the meager pay-and in all respects since then vast improvement has been made in the care of our soldiers.

They passed through the old town of Perote. Near this town on the 9th of October, 1847, our army fought the battle of Huamautta. When five miles off the infantry heard the guns—the cavalry, under Capt. Walker, a Texan, having engaged the enemy. A wonderful race to get into the battle followed, and the infantry arrived in time to participate in the fight, and have a share in the glory of defeating Santa Anna in his last battle of the war. Santa Anna was in a church steeple near by viewing the battle, and seeing the rout of his army made his escape. Capt. Walker had been a prisoner in the hands of the Mexicans, and took this opportunity to avenge his wrongs. He covered the public square with the killed of the enemy, but was himself killed at the close of the engagement. Thence our army marched into Puebla, driving out the Mexican army,

which had so closely besieged Col. Childs. The army remained all winter at Puebla, and during the winter had two running fights with the Mexican army— at Atlixco and Hascala.

The grand scenery about Puebla, its "alamedas,"-splendid public gardens, blooming with a profusion of the finest flowers, trees of magnificent foliage, fountains; richly dressed, beautiful women, a people given over to love of pleasure—snow-capped Orizaba on the East and Popocatepetl on the West, grand mountains, are among the vivid recollections the Col. has of his soldier life in Puebla. While there he, with a party of comrades on a furlough of ten days, went to the city of Mexico to look upon the "Halls of the Montezumas," and see the sights and wonders of the strange old city which the exploits of Cortez and his robber band have made famous till the end of time. While here he visited the famous battlefields about the city, and the scenes of the conflicts between the Aztecs and the Spaniards under Cortez, in the days of early adventure in the New World.

In July, 1848, he returned to his native town, and for a time acted as clerk in a dry-goods store. About this time he traveled in the Green river country, Ky., and while there received these impressions of slavery, (having personal knowledge of the beating to death of a slave woman in the field by her tyrannical master) which ever after made-him the steadfast enemy of that institution. Thence until 1852 he was engaged in business with Peter Hawk, now of Newton, and his brother. In 1852

the Garrett brothers, with Orson Willard, shipped cattle through to California, Willard and family and James H. Garrett going through with the cattle. While in California James H. married the oldest daughter of Orson Willard, and on the return of the parties, on Feb. 17, 1857, at Terre Haute, Ind., John A (subject of our sketch) and Martha Isabella Willard, youngest daughter of Orson Willard, were married. The Willard family were from New York. Gov Willard, of Indiana, was one of the family. During the time of stay in Carlisle, previous to marriage, the Colonel had acted as President of the Co. Agricultural Society, and Director of the Vincennes and Terre Haute Railroad, having been one of sixteen men who had contributed \$40,000 to secure the location of the road through his town of Carlisle. The day following his marriage, carrying with him the regrets of the people of his native county, he started for Iowa. April 18, 1867, he landed at Burlington. Leaving his wife at Indianola he traveled through Missouri and Kansas looking up a home, but finding no place to suit him so well as Iowa, he returned and settled first at Des Moines. In the spring following he removed to Leon, and sold family groceries. In February, 1859, he moved to Newton, making the trip with his wife and babe in an open wagon. Here he went into the general dry-goods trade.

In 1861 occurred a little matter which has come to our knowledge, which shows the character of the man in most commendable light. Receiving about that time a considerable sum of money, the proceeds of the sale of slaves belonging to the estate of an aunt in Kentucky—a matter which was entirely beyond his control, he turned the amount over to the American Colonization Society, for the benefit of the enslaved race, not wishing in any way to profit by the misfortunes of his fellow beings, and more especially through the oppressions of American Slavery.

In August, 1861, he raised a company in Jasper County, which on Sept. 6th and 7th was mustered in as Co. I, 10th Iowa Inf., Col. Perczel. Cape Girardeau was the first point of operations for the regiment—the time being spent in drilling and chasing Jeff Thompson. At the taking of New Madrid Co. I was the first company to enter the town. In the series of brilliant exploits here and at Island No. 10, resulting in the capture of a large part of the rebel army, Co. I was among the foremost. The 10th next went with the expedition to Fort Pillow, thence back to

Cairo and up the Tennessee river to Hamburg, reinforcing Halleck's army on the left. While before Corinth a high compliment was paid to Captain Garrett by his fellow Captains. Word having been received that Col. Perczel was about to leave the regiment the Captains of the other companies of the regiment united in recommending Capt. Garrett for Colonel over themselves, (many of them being senior by letter) and over the field officers. At this time the Captain had brought his company to great perfection of drill and discipline. Shortly after this, while at Jacinto, Mississippi, in Sept., 1862, Capt. G. was promoted to the Lieut. Colonelcy of the 22d Iowa. On the occasion of leaving, his company presented him a splendid sword as a testimonial of their esteem, and their regret at losing him as their commander. While on the way North to join the 22d he learned of his appointment as Col. of the 40th Iowa then forming at Iowa City. At the time of Capt. Garrett's promotion Col. Perczel issued the following general order:

"HEADQUARTERS 10TH IOWA VOLUNTEERS,
CAMP near Jacinto, Miss., Sept. 8th, 1862.
"GENERAL ORDER, NO. 37:

The Col. Commanding announces to the regiment the promotion of John A. Garrett, Capt. Co. I, of this regiment, to the Lieut. Colonelcy of the 22d Reg. Iowa Vol. While he greatly regrets the necessity of parting with an excellent officer he cannot but rejoice at his well-merited promotion. During a year's service the Col. Commanding never has had occasion for the slightest blame in the conduct of Capt. Garrett. Unassuming, even tempered, civil and courteous,—in short a gentleman. As a soldier, brave, faithful, indefatigable and fully qualified for his position. As a citizen, a true patriot, earnest and honest in his political principles. He was honored and esteemed by his superiors, and beloved by his comrades and his company. The Col. Commanding is satisfied that he expresses the sentiment of this regiment in giving to a brave comrade this acknowledgment of his merit, and in tendering him this public farewell our best wishes will follow him to his new position. All which would be said in his praise I think is presumed in the fact that he leaves but friends behind him.

NICOLAS PERCZELL, Col. Com'd'g Regt.
WILLIAM MANNING, Adgt."

On the 15th of November, 1862, the 40th was mustered in and started for Cairo. The Regiment wintered at Columbus. During the stay at Columbus the situation of the 40th was disagreeable in the extreme. The weather was wet and cold and severe upon the men, who were mostly quartered in "dog-tents," and were otherwise poorly prepared for the snows, rains and chilling winds of that winter. The regiment was detained at Columbus watching Forest, who kept that section in lively anticipation of attack for some weeks. In March a move was made to Paducah, where the 40th stayed about sixty days, and the weather proving favorable and the camp grounds fine, the regiment was drilled into splendid condition, forming one of the most promising regiments of the army.

In May the regiment was ordered to Vicksburg, and remained in the rear of the city until after the capture, suffering great loss from the effects of the climate, bad water, &c., a loss from which it never fully recovered. After the capture the 40th went to Helena—thence across Arkansas to the capture of Little Rock. The 40th was selected to make the first crossing of the Arkansas, a heavy battle being expected when the attempt should be made. Lieut Col. Cooper (Co . Garrett being absent) led the regiment in the crossing of the river, and although no resistance was made by the enemy, the bearing of the men as they led the van against an enemy

who with even very inferior forces might have made a desperate resistance to the crossing, showed the metal of the regiment, and proved it to be equal to any emergency the war might produce. It was a grand point gained, and was bravely, heroically done; and, as later, at Okalona and Prairie D'Anne and Jenkin's Ferry, the 40th did its whole duty and won well earned laurels, so in this instance, with a determined enemy in front the regiment would have shown by its losses and by its deeds that Iowa soldiers can dare and do all when their country throws them into the deadly breach.

While near Vicksburg Col. Garrett received the tidings from his wife, of the death of his daughter, Minnie. His letters written at this time, while they show the most tender affection as father and husband, yet show a resignation to the stern necessities of his situation, and a realization of the fact that in the heart of the patriotic soldier, when the hour of the country's need comes, then everything, even to life itself if need be must be given up that the sacred cause of our country, of truth and of liberty may live forever. This spirit in our volunteer soldiers in the late war made our army invincible, and glorious in history, and scattered the portentous clouds of evil, that so long were gathering their blackness over our country and threatening ruin to it and the loss of liberty for ages to mankind. After the capture of Vicksburg, Col. Garrett came home on a short leave of absence, his family still being afflicted with sickness. At the end of his furlough, still acting from that stern sense of duty which has ever marked his career as a man and especially as a soldier, he returned to his regiment, leaving (as he supposed) his only remaining daughter (little Annie) on her death-bed. A kind Providence, whose over-ruling hand the Colonel has always recognized, saw fit to dispense otherwise, and little Annie still lives—the light of the Colonel's pleasant home. Again in Sept., 1864, he received at Little Rock news of the death of his only son, an infant a year old.

The regiment wintered at Little Rock, no important events happening during the winter. During this time the regiment was drilled and disciplined into most perfect condition. The camp was a model for order, beauty and cleanliness. The Colonel on going into camp issued an order for weekly inspection, making grade depend on the condition of the barracks, streets, kitchen, cooking utensils, arms, &c.—from 2 to 6— poor to perfect. An average was struck for each company. A report in writing was read each Sunday evening on Dress Parade—especial mention being made of the highest and lowest companies. The means thus used to promote the efficiency of the regiment were attended with wonderful success. Lieut. Col. Vollum, Gen. Cauley's Chief Inspecting Officer, visiting the camp of the 40th with Dr. Cornell, sent word to Col. Garrett:— "Tell the Colonel he has the finest regiment I have seen."

In January Col. G. sat on Military Commission with Gen. Thayer and Capt. Rice, of Minnesota, both of whom have since been U. S. Senators. Many important cases were tried by this Commission.

On the 23d day of March, 1864, Gen. Steele's army left Little Rock on the noted Camden expedition. The 40th went out with 375 enlisted men and 10 commissioned officers. On the 15th of April the army reached Camden On the 3d at Okalona, and again on the 10th at Prairie D' Anne the enemy had attacked our army, and it was the fortune of the 40th to take a prominent and praise worthy part in both engagements,—driving the enemy before them—losing two wounded at Okalona and Prairie D' Anne, one mortally wounded, and six wounded more or less severely;—three were missing on the route.

The stay at Camden was very short, Gen. Steele receiving word of the disaster to Bank's army. The retreat began at dusk on the 26th, the 40th as part of Gen. Englemen's brigade bringing up the rear of our army. This retreat, with the battle of Jenkin's Ferry, forms a

memorable part of the record of our armies. During the war no more heroic fighting was done, and the resolute endurance by the troops of the privations and labors and fightings of that march was wonderful. On the morning of the 29th the rear of our army marched out of Princeton. About noon the troubles of the retreating army began to thicken. For days there had been no rations of bread, foraging was profitless; coffee was the food and drink of the army, and now to add to the difficulties of the retreat, rain set in, and the enemy, who by this time was rapidly bringing up his forces, attacked the 40th on both flank and rear. The fighting continued until the regiment came up with the advance in Saline bottom. Here four companies were deployed who engaged the enemy until dark. Every soldier of these four companies kept most vigilant watch during the night. At daylight the 40th was relieved by the 43d Iowa, and moving forward about a mile took a coffee breakfast. In about an hour the enemy moved in force down the hills and began the

BATTLE OF JENKIN'S FERRY.

This battle was fought in a swampy bottom. The rain had poured down during the previous night, and all day during the battle the men fought in mud and water to their knees, the ammunition being brought to the front on horse-back, and the boxes opened with the bayonets of the soldiers. Heavy timber covered the bottom, and but a narrow, bottomless road led through it to the river crossing. The rebels were in front in overwhelming numbers. The losses of the combined armies in the battle were over 3,000—the rebels admitting a loss of 2,300

Of the four companies engaged under Col. Garrett—less than 100 men—six were killed—34 were wounded and four were taken prisoners while attending the wounded.—Total 44! The heroic valor of this small remnant of the 40th saved our army from probable utter defeat and our cause in the South-west from a disaster fearful to contemplate. In this battle when ordered to reinforce the left Col. G. found a panic fairly begun, and seven companies of men from one regiment retreating in disorder. But he not only led his own regiment; afterwards finding the 12th Kansas without a field officer, and hesitating and taking a feeble part in the battle he led it forward, and with the combined forces victoriously drove the rebels before him. It was after this battle that the boys of the 12th in compliment to the Col. said "if they had Garrett for their Colonel they would iron-clad him."

We quote from Col. G's report of the battle as follows:

**"HEADQUARTERS 40TH IOWA INFANTRY VOL.,
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, MAY 6, 1864.**

CAPT. WM. E. FAY, A. A. G. 3d Div. 7th Army Corps:

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by my regiment in the battle of Jenkin's Ferry, on Saturday, the 30th of April, 1864.

On the March, on the 28th, my regiment was in the rear, and was exposed to the fire of the enemy for miles before reaching camp; after which time, besides the usual picket detail, four of my companies were deployed as skirmishers, and were engaged at intervals with the enemy till dark, and during the entire night the most vigilant watch was kept by every officer and man of these companies. At daylight we were relieved by the 33d Iowa, Col. Mackey, when I moved my regiment forward a mile and halted in the edge of an open field, facing our late rear, my right resting on the road. About 7 o'clock firing commenced, and steadily grew warmer, and came closer, till it became evident the enemy was advancing in force, determined to give battle. At 8 o'clock by direction of Col. Engelman commanding brigade, I threw out Companies B and F,

under Captain Campbell, to the left and front as skirmishers. They moved into the woods some distance to watch, and if necessary engage the enemy.

By direction I now moved my regiment forward to within a short distance of the advance line now engaged with the enemy, my right resting on the road. In a few minutes, as directed, Major Smith, with the four right companies, crossed the road, leaving Cos. A and D, under Lieut. Anderson, to support a section of Capt. Vaughn's battery, occupying the road.

The Major moved Cos. C. and I across a narrow, deep stream, passed over an open field, and deployed them in the woods to observe, and if opportunity offered, engage the left flank of the enemy. Col. Engelman now directed me to move to the left and front with my four companies, H, E, K, and G, and form on the left of our forces now engaged, as they were hard pressed. As the most expeditious, I moved by the left flank. At this time, so great a number from our engaged line were retreating in disorder and haste, it looked almost like a panic. On nearing the left of the line, a force as large or larger than my own was retreating in line. Arriving near where the left of this retiring force had rested, I filed to the left, then moved to the front, till, a little in advance of the line on the right, I halted and opened fire. While getting in position the fire of the enemy was pouring on my little command, and now we were not only on the extreme left, but some distance from the left of the line on the right. In a short time I moved my companies forward and to the right, joining some companies of the 27th Wisconsin, which also advanced, and of which the officers and men were doing their whole duty. The line now advanced, making short halts, then moving forward. After advancing a short distance, we began to pass over the enemy's dead, and my men moved right on with a shout, pouring in a well-directed fire on the retreating enemy. The line having advanced a half mile or more, the fire of the enemy ceased, and a halt was called. About this time the 12th Kansas came up on my left. My men who were out of cartridges now supplied themselves from boxes brought on horseback, which they opened with their bayonets. The Col. of the 12th Kansas having been wounded, the Captain commanding fearing a flank movement on his left, fell back some two hundred yards.

After half an hour's lull the enemy, with heavy reinforcements moved up in close range, and opened fire again. Our whole line now become engaged, and firing on both sides was heavy, some say terrific. My little command was under a cross fire, receiving, I think the concentrated fire of two regiments, which, having moved by the flanks, met and formed directly in my front. My men were falling fast, but held their ground, not yielding an inch. I sent for the 12th Kansas to come up on my left; it moved, but halted fifty yards short of the line and opened fire. I went back and moved it up in line, when it poured a splendid volley right into the ranks of the enemy, and thus relieved, in part, my command from the terrible fire which was wasting it so fast. This last engagement lasted about an hour, till half past 12 o'clock, when the enemy fell back, and then withdrew, leaving our little army in possession of the field. I lost out of less than one hundred men, six killed thirty-four wounded, (many severely, some mortally), four captured and one missing; a full list of which has been reported.

In common with officers and men, I regret that all my companies could not go into the engagement together. I may here state that my men had drawn no bread for five days; that they had a coffee supper on the night of the 29th, and a coffee breakfast on the following morning some getting a little meat on the morning of the battle.

It rained almost a flood during the night of the 29th and the morning of the 30th. The battle was fought in Saline bottom, which was covered by a heavy forest; mud, mire, and sheets of water were everywhere.

My men fired from sixty to one hundred rounds each. N. R. Cornell, my Surgeon, did all in

his power to care for the wounded. Lieut Baird was wounded while fearlessly doing his duty in the hottest of the fight. My Color-bearer, Mortimer W. Nelson, as brave a man as ever bore a flag, was shot in the shoulder and fell. Out of four, two Color-guards—Corpls. Davis and Bare—fell, severely wounded; and I regret to say, Davis was left on the field. Lieut. Amos commanded Co. H, Capt. Sennet Co. E, Lieut. Christie Co. K, and Capt. Jordan Co. K. Officers and men fought with the cool determination of veterans, and with the desperate valor of men appreciating that all was at stake on the result. One noble Sergeant, Simmons, of Co. H, was shot in the breast. When his Lieutenant told him the enemy was beaten, he waved his hand and died with a smile.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN A. GARRETT, Colonel commanding."

Gen. Engleman in his report of the battle says: "I must here express the high obligations which I am under to Col. Garrett and Lieut. Col. Dengler for the gallantry with which they led their commands, being conscious, however, that nothing I can say can afford them the satisfaction they must have experienced in witnessing the bravery of their men."

This battle having ended the pursuit of our army by Kirby Smith, the weary, muddy march was resumed, and after several days of endurance and sufferings, borne with fortitude worthy of men who had fought so heroically, the army met supplies when nine miles from Little Rock, and were soon back in their old camps. During the winter following Col. G. had part of the time command of the post, and most of the time command of a brigade.

During the next six months detachments from the 40th were sent out on many important enterprises. In February, 1865, the regiment moved to Fort Smith. Here Col. G. again commanded a brigade numbering 5,000 men. Gen. Bussy in command there having sent for a "first-rate regiment," the 40th had been sent. Shortly afterwards, Major General Blunt, having been relieved from the command of South Kansas, Col. Garrett was assigned to the command of that district, and in the administration of its affairs again won golden opinions from those around him. Perhaps the Colonel never received a higher compliment than was paid to him by the Cherokee Legislature, as shown by the following:

To Col. Garret, Commanding at Fort Gibson, Cherokee Nation, and the officers and soldiers of the Fortieth Iowa Volunteers:

GENTLEMEN:—I am instructed to present to you on the following resolutions, written in Cherokee, of which the following is a translation:

Let me say to you, and your officers and soldiers, that these resolutions are not merely complimentary: When the war commenced the Cherokees had a population of twenty-four thousand; enjoying all the comforts of life in the rich and beautiful land. Of this population eighteen thousand adhered to the Union and six thousand to the Rebellion. The Union population, by the fortunes of war, were, in the winter 1862 and 1863, driven North and lost by disease, exposure and starvation, six thousand of their number. The Cherokees furnished to the Union Army two regiments of soldiers, whose character as soldiers you well know, being every efficient man in their midst that had not gone South, and a larger proportion of soldiers to their numbers than any State in the Union. When these regiments were fighting with Price in Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas the Cherokee Nation was invaded by an army of thieves from the North, many of them civil and military officers of the United States, and soldiers wearing the

uniform of the Union, and by them one hundred thousand head of cattle and fifteen thousand head of horses were stolen, and public and private houses plundered of their furniture, and whole trains of U. S. wagons were laden with the booty and sent North; and these outrages were carried to such excess that the U. S. Agent remarked in his report that the damage done by Union soldiers and men was equal if it did not exceed the outrages of the Rebels.

This conduct was approved of by many of the officers, and the probability is that the furniture stolen from our public schools and private houses now graces some of these officers' homes.

Since the Fortieth Iowa has been in command here thieving has been unknown by a soldier or officer, and order has been preserved and the people treated with kindness and respect.

J. W. WRIGHT, Att'y of Cherokees,
Washington, D. C

At a meeting of the Executive Council of the Cherokee Nation, at Fort Gibson, July 31, A. D., 1865, these resolutions were submitted and unanimously adopted:

Resolved,—1ST. That the thanks of the Cherokee people be tendered to the officers and soldiers of the Fortieth Iowa for their correct deportment while in our midst, and we wish them a safe return to their families and friends; and we shall always remember them as the friends of our nation, and as a pattern for Union soldiers.

2ND. That the Adjutant of the Fortieth Iowa cause this resolution to be published in the papers of Iowa.

LEWIS DOWNING, Acting Chief.

Col. G. retained this command, embracing all of the Indian Territory and part of Kansas, until on the 2d of August, at Fort Gibson, the regiment was mustered out of the service and started for home. It lacked but four days of being four years of service for the Colonel when he reached home. Just before the regiment left Fort Gibson Gen. Bussey issued this following general order:

HEAD-QUARTERS, 3D DIVISION, 7TH ARMY CORPS,
FORT SMITH, ARK., JULY 28TH, 1865 SPECIAL ORDERS, NO. 124.-EXTRACT.

IV. In view of the early departure of the 40th Iowa Infantry for their homes, the General Commanding cannot refrain from expressing to the officers and men of that regiment his high appreciation of their faithful performance of every duty, and their superior discipline while connected with this Division, and his gratitude for the cordial support they have given him in his endeavors to carry out the policy of the Government.

The officers and men of the 40TH IOWA have honored the positions they occupy, and have earned the highest meed of praise that can be bestowed upon the brave men of our army. For three years you have served your country, and enjoyed the proud satisfaction of witnessing the triumph of our arms, and the vindication of the principles of free government. You will soon return to your homes, and have merited and will receive the gratitude of the nation. That you may be as good citizens as you have proved to be soldiers is the earnest wish of your last commander.

By Command of Brig. Gen. CYRUS BUSSEY.
TO COL. JOHN A. GARRETT, Com'd'g 40th Iowa Inf.
H. D. B. CUTLER, A. A. General.

Col. Garrett is about six feet in height, slender, of fair complexion, well featured,—has an intellectual brain rather than one where passion predominates. While not robust in build he has great power of endurance, backed by a resolute will. He is governed in his intercourse with men by a high sense of honor; and is gentlemanly and courteous to all. He has a great contempt for that which is mean and tricky, and holds in high esteem men whom he finds to be governed by pure and

noble motives in their lives. He uses neither liquors, tobacco, tea nor coffee. He loves good literature, and in literary and school matters takes an active interest. He loves home and family and friends with more than ordinary strength. He lives at this date in Newton, where he has been engaged in business since the war. Those who know him best hope that his days may be long, and that he may spend them in our community. He has served his country well; may he enjoy her protection and receive her gratitude for many years to come.

NEWTON, IOWA, Dec. 24, 1870.

ANNALS OF IOWA
APRIL, 1871.
EDITORIAL NOTES

--SOME very objectionable typographical mistakes occurred in the January number, some of which are obvious, while others need correction. In the sketch of Col. Garrett, on line sixth of page 438, for *Huamautta*, read *Huamautla*; on twenty-first line, same page, for *Hascala*, read *Tlascalala*; seventh line from bottom, same page, " look upon " should read, *look up*; page 438, seventeenth line, for "Gen. *Cauley's*," read Gen. *Canby's*.