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REVEREND HOMER HAMLIN.

The fourth member of the quartette of founders was Reverend Homer Hamlin of Wellington, Ohio. In an address by Prof. L. F. Parker delivered at the Semi-Centennial celebration in 1904, Mr. Hamlin's ancestry is traced back to a London Puritan, James Hamlin, who in 1639 escaped the tyranny of Archbishop Laud and came to America to find religious freedom near Plymouth Rock at Barnstable, Massachusetts. The Hamlin family history shows



that his descendants have been prominent in all departments of thought and life. Seventy-five fought in the Revolution, and 350 in the Civil War. Of the founders of the town, Homer Hamlin alone came here in quest of health, and in his plans for the new life of the town was always conscious of the nearing end of his own. He expected to live but a year or two when he came, but passed fourteen eventful and important years in the little village.

It will be remembered that on the famous trip from Iowa City to Lattimer's Grove the party stayed overnight at the Lattimer Stagehouse. After dinner the four men proposed to engage quarters for the night and settle the bill when returning. But Lattimer, wise in the ways of travelers, thought it a good time to pay up then, as he "had seen many folks proposing to pay when they came back, who never came". The bill was only a quarter each. And Lattimer was right, because for the best of reasons the party did not return. After having decided where the town was to be, the setting sun

and a cold night warned the party that they must seek the nearest shelter for the night. This they found at the home of Evans who was away leaving his wife and young daughter alone. At first, Mrs. Evans refused to give them permission to come in, but finally relented, saying,

"You can't all be mean, come in." Mr. Downey of Iowa City had anticipated the founding of the town and asked a large sum for his entries of land near the favored spot. Mr. Hamlin took 80 acres of the Downey purchase where he resided, adjoining the town.

Owing to his physical condition, it was impossible for Mr. Hamlin to take the active part in the establishment and development of the new colony which was taken by his three companions. But this did not prevent his taking a deep interest in all that tended to its development and betterment. Mr. Hamlin was a strong anti-slavery man and he and his wife helped many a poor and helpless colored person. It is interesting to note that on the faculty of Grinnell University, Mrs. A. J. Hamlin, wife of Homer Hamlin is listed as instructor in French. Mr. Hamlin believed most profoundly in the efficacy of prayer and in the direct interposition of the Supreme Being in the affairs of man. The Honorable J. P. Lyman says: "This characteristic was so marked that at times some of his friends thought that he did not give sufficient prominence to the fact that God works through the instrumentality of man." Mr. Geo. H. Hamlin, now residing in this city, is a son of Homer Hamlin. Grinnell lost one of its best and most worthy citizens when Homer Hamlin died, Sept. 22, 1866.