

MEMORIALS.

[No. 1.]—*A Memorial to Congress for a grant of land to endow a University.*

Feb. 19, 1851.

To the honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled: The memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota, respectfully represents: That in accordance with the general desire of the inhabitants of this Territory, an act containing the most liberal provisions was passed at the first session of its Legislature, for the establishment of common schools: since which time, the people have shown a laudable and most generous disposition to carry out effectually, the provisions of said act, by voluntary taxation for the maintenance of the schools, which, under great difficulty, they had succeeded in establishing.

Preamble, etc.

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Many of these schools are now attended by large numbers of scholars, and already give the most flattering prospects of rendering inestimable benefit to the rising generation; and they have been a source of much gratification to those who, acting from wise and expanded, as well as liberal motives, were the first to promote by their zeal and untiring exertions, such beneficial results. And the consequence has been, that this Territory, which but a short time since was without a name or political existence, and contained but a few white inhabitants, now contains within its wide bounds a greater number of schools than has ever sprung into existence with the same population, within the same short period, in any State or Territory.

Already a higher want is beginning to be felt, and the urgent necessity of immediately preparing for its attainment at as early a day as possible, is daily becoming more apparent. Many of the youth who are now receiving the rudiments of knowledge at the common schools, will soon be prepared for the more arduous ascent which leads to the acquirement of a liberal education; and all feel the great disadvantages, and in many instances, disability of sending their children abroad for that purpose; while at home, under the eye of their natural guardians, and within the genial influences of their own invigorating climate, under other circumstances, the same desirable end might be obtained at a comparatively small expense.

Prayer, etc.

Your memorialists therefore pray, that your honorable body will take into consideration the expediency, propriety and justice of acceding to the general wish of the people of Minnesota, by granting the prayer of your memorialists: That one hundred thousand acres of land, now belonging to the United States, or which may become a part of the domain of the United States by the treaty about to be made with the Sioux, be granted to the Territory of Minnesota, subject to the control of its Legislature, either in one or more tracts, or in such manner as your honorable bodies may deem most efficacious for the attainment of the object aimed at—the endowment of a University, which shall be the property of the Territory: to be governed and taught in such manner, and by such officers, as the Legislative Assembly of the Territory may direct or appoint.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

M. E. AMES,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

D. B. LOOMIS,

President of the Council.

APPROVED, February nineteenth, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one.

ALEX. RAMSEY.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, }
St. Paul, May 13, 1851. }

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy from the original on file in this office.

C. K. SMITH,

Secretary of the Territory of Minnesota.

March 12, 1851.

[No. 2.]—*Memorial to Congress asking for a donation of land to the County of Benton.*

Preamble, etc.

To the honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives, of the United States, in Congress assembled: The memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota respectfully represents: That the county of Benton is situated in the midst of an Indian country, and is sparsely settled and peculiarly exposed to the invasion and depredation of the Indians, especially the Winnebagoes and Chippewas; that a large portion of said county is excellent farming lands, no portion of which was ever surveyed and made subject to pre-emption until within a few weeks past: that this circumstance, added to the frequent outbreaks and trespasses perpetrated on the inhabitants, have, in the absence of a work house, jail, or any other proper places of confinement, rendered the administration of the laws comparatively inefficient, and deterred farmers and settlers from making their residence and fixing their homes in that otherwise most desirable portion of our Territory. The few that have settled in said county, are altogether too few in number to afford each other mutual protection, and too destitute of means at present, for building a jail, court house, and other necessary county buildings, essential to an efficient execution