WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.

As indicative of the interest with which the work of the Kansas Historical Society is regarded, because of the national importance of the events of early Kansas history, the following fac-simile of an autograph letter, written by William Lloyd Garrison a few days before his death, is here given:*

Boston, March 25, 1879.

F. G. Adams:

Dear Sir—Please accept my thanks for your letter, and also for the pamphlet accompanying it, containing the First Biennial Report of the Board of Directors of the Kansas State Historical Society, which I have read with great interest.

The formation of such a society is cause for special congratulation, and an event of historical importance far beyond the limits of the State; for there is nothing more thrilling in American history than the struggle against "Border Ruffianism" (alias the Slave Power) to secure freedom and free institutions to Kansas—a struggle which, if it had terminated otherwise than it did, would have

*Wm. Lloyd Garrison was born in Newburyport, Mass., in a house still standing, in close proximity to the church under whose pulpit repose the remains of George Whitefield, on the 19th of Decem-

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been fraught with appalling consequences not only to the State itself, but to the whole country, and postponed the abolition of the dreadful system of chattel slavery to an indefinite period. No pains should be spared to accumulate and preserve everything relates to it, that posterity may know how it originated and was conducted, pro and con, what were its horrors in the part of the lawless invaders, what its sufferings and heroic sacrifices on the part of the friends of impartial liberty, and what gratitude and honor will ever be due to the latter for their steadfast and indomitable vindication of the rights of human nature, under trials and in the midst of perils incomparably greater than any to which the actors in the conflict for American Independence were ever subjected.

How different would have been the fate of Kansas, if slavery had been successfully established upon her soil!
Under the plastic hand of freedom, how astonishing has been her growth in intelligence, industry, enterprise, population, and material prosperity; and at the present time what strides she is making in developing her ample resources, and how irresistible is the magnetism by which she is drawing to herself from all quarters a mighty immigration that can scarcely fail to place her, ere long, in the front rank of States! This is her fitting compensation for having gone through a baptism of blood and fire, an ordeal of fire with such firmness and devotion in the sacred cause of human freedom. May her peace be as a river, and her prosperity as the waves of the sea!

Invoking, for the Kansas State Historical Society, all possible success,

Very truly yours,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.
set him to learning the trade of a shoemaker. As he was unhappy in this occupation, she next apprenticed him to a cabinet-maker; but he was still discontented, yearning continually for an occupation more congenial to his feelings and tastes, and his articles of apprenticeship were canceled at his own request. He found at length his right place, in a printing office in his native place. This proved for him both high school and college, from which he graduated with honor, after a long and faithful apprenticeship. During the period of his minority he became deeply interested in current moral and political questions, upon which he wrote frequently and acceptably, for the newspaper on which he daily worked as a printer, The Newburyport Herald. He also contributed to a Boston paper a series of political essays, which, being anonymous, were by many attributed to the Hon. Timothy Pickering, then one of the most eminent citizens of Massachusetts. At the end of his apprenticeship he became the editor of a new paper, The Free Press, in his native place. It was distinguished for its high moral tone, but proved unremunerative, as such papers usually do. He was next heard of as editor of The National Philanthropist, in Boston — the first paper ever established to support the doctrine of total abstinence from intoxicating drinks. This was in 1827; and the next year he joined the ranks of the active workers against slavery.

In an address at Boston on the 4th of July, 1829, he made his first bold assault on slavery, and in the Genus of Universal Emancipation, published at Baltimore in the same year, made a distinct avowal of the doctrine of immediate emancipation as the right of the slave and the duty of the master. He went at one bound to the head of anti-slavery agitators, and then dashed in advance of all. He beated the moderates, denounced the Colonization Society, and took extreme ground on every question discussed.

In 1830 he was convicted of gross and malicious libel, and, in default of payment of fine, was committed to jail. From his prison he wrote letters that kept the political currents in a state of perturbation, and that brought to his rescue Arthur Tappan, of New York, and Henry Clay, of Kentucky. This experience made him an anti-slavery lecturer, and fairly opened that career of aggressive warfare so familiar to all Americans. He reached the people and set them to thinking, and the publication of his Liberator, January 1, 1831, was a notable event in the history of American politics. The paper created great excitement, North and South, and the Legislature of Georgia passed an act offering a reward of $5,000 for the arrest and conviction of the publisher.

Mr. Garrison organized the New England Anti-Slavery Society in 1832, published in the same year his "Thoughts on African Colonization," and soon after went to England. On his return he became the leader of the anti-slavery crusade, and the leading spirit in the organization of the American Anti-Slavery Society. The public mind was now inflamed, and Mr. Garrison was literally in the midst of the fury of battle. In 1835, his clothes were partially torn from him, and he was dragged through the streets of Boston by a furioso mob. Notwithstanding this, he appeared as the advocate of peace and non-resistance, and in 1836 led the way in the organization of the New England Non-Resistance Society.

When the question of women's rights came up in the Anti-Slavery Society, Mr. Garrison espoused the cause of the women, and in 1840 refused to take his seat as delegate in the World's Anti-Slavery Convention at London, because the female delegates from the United States were excluded. He was, however, chosen president of the society in 1843, and held the office until slavery was abolished.

Through all the stormy period extending from the date of his Boston address, in 1829, Mr. Garrison was the ideal agitator — bold, aggressive, and yet peaceable. His idea was to secure the abolition of slavery through moral influence, and he at first contemplated no disturbance of the relations of the States. Later, he advanced the theory that the compact between the free and slave States was immoral, and argued that a dissolution of the Union was necessary to the freedom of the North. When the events of 1861 changed the aspect of the slavery question, he changed ground again, and became an earnest advocate of the national policy during the war. The last number of his Liberator, published in December, 1865, reviewed the period of thirty-five years' conflict with the slave power, and recorded the ratifications of the amendment to the Constitution forever prohibiting the existence of slavery.

This ended one great work of his life; but he has been almost constantly before the country on other questions, and in 1867 he visited England, to be received with distinguished favor and consideration.

The old man who gave so many years of his life to work for the persecuted and oppressed, and was himself persecuted for doing it, passed to a higher life at midnight, May 24th, 1879.

Perhaps no higher eulogium could be pronounced upon Mr. Garrison than that found in the following words of his friend and co-laborer in the interests of humanity, John G. Whittier, written after his death: "The verdict of posterity in this case may be safely anticipated. With the true reformers and benefactors of his race, he occupies a place inferior to none other. The private lives of many who fought well the battle of humanity have not been without spot or blemish; but his private character, like his public, knew no dishonor. No shadow of suspicion rests upon the white statue of a life, the fitting garment of which should be the Alpine flower that symbolizes noble purity."