EARLY HISTORY OF CLOUD COUNTY
BY H.E. SMITH

AN EXTRAORDINARY TRAGEDY

Albert was his oldest child. A daughter, the wife of Charles D Shader, of Lancaster, and three sons are living. Albert was about 30 years old. Mr. Young always felt a deep interest in the education of his children. The education of all people was a matter always near his heart. Through his instrumentality one of the first school houses on “the prairie” was built, and called “Young’s School House.” His children received all the schooling they could there, and all of them were sent away to higher schools as they grew old enough. Albert’s education was better than that of the others. When through with schools he selected the “newspaper” profession. Preparatory to this he spent two years among the types in the Lancaster Herald office.

Then, about six years ago, he went home. Up to that time the Young family is supposed to have been a model one. His daughter, who was married shortly before that, says there never was a more peaceful household. It has developed; however, that for many years there was want of harmony in the secret lives of the father and mother of the family. It grew out of her inattention to the duties of her share in the matrimonial partnership. She was not a help-meet was rather an additional load to the pilgrim. From early morning he has toiled until bedtime, and, coming home, would find himself compelled to make the kitchen fire and cook his own supper, or go to bed hungry.

This sort of treatment he bore so patiently and with so little murmuring that the children never discovered that there was a wrong in it. Though Mr. Young toiled in this way, he was the most prominent character of a population of 15,000, embracing the western half of Grant County. Some fifteen or twenty years ago he was a member of the Legislature. In 1862, 63, 64, and 65 he was in the State Senate. Your files of 1864, in your Madison correspondence, will show him to have been the leading worker of the Senate, in the Fox and Wisconsin improvement matter, and in all agricultural interests. The Senate management of the large government grant for the endowment of an agricultural college was left mainly to him.