of these and other letters. (See ante, 6:202.) In a later issue some further account of Hall's letters in these archives will be given when the entire group of northwest mission letters is described.

G. L. N.

THE KENSINGTON RUNE STONE: A REPLY TO CRITICISM

In the December, 1925, issue of Minnesota History, p. 370-374, Dr. Theodore C. Blegen reviews some alleged errors in an earlier article by me. His comments call for a few words of explanation.

Dr. Blegen is quite right when he condemns the statement cited from my article that "the first white settlers came to Douglas County in 1865." The error is due to a misprint. In 1919, when my article was written, some people believed that even if the Kensington stone was in situ at least forty or fifty years before it was found in 1898 (as appears from the official report of the Museum Committee of the Minnesota Historical Society), it might have been left there by some early Norwegian settler. I therefore investigated the time of the coming of the Norwegians to Douglas County and found that the first Norwegian settler came there in 1865. This is what I wrote in my Ms. The stenographer or typesetter through some subconscious association of ideas changed the word Norwegian to white and the change unfortunately escaped my attention in proof reading.

Dr. Blegen cavils at my statement that the late Senator Knute Nelson was one of the "first settlers" at Alexandria. He took a homestead there in 1870. If our homesteaders are not to be counted among the first settlers, who are? The fact that there were many trappers, speculators, and soldiers of fortune there before him as well as other early homesteaders does not detract from his honor of being one of the bona fide "first settlers." He is so regarded by all the early settlers around there. Moreover, as nothing hinges on the statement,
it is to me somewhat irrelevant to raise such a fine distinc-
tion.

Dr. Blegen quotes my statement that "immigration followed
the projected survey of the Great Northern Railway which
passed through Alexandria in 1878" and concludes from this
that I am suffering from the delusion that there was no immi-
gration to that region until 1878. He therefore devotes several
pages to show that there were many settlers in western Minne-
sota in the sixties and early seventies. Perhaps I did not
express myself explicitly enough. I did not mean to say that
the immigration followed the railway but the projected survey
of the same. This projected survey was discussed among pro-
spective settlers for many years before the railway came and
it was this that guided the bulk of the immigrants in making
their selection of lands. But this does not preclude the fact
that many years before the main stream of immigration rolled
in there were many adventurous pioneers who settled there. I
have never suppressed this fact. On the contrary, I have called
more attention to this earliest settlement than anyone else.
There have been published in various periodicals at least fifteen
lengthy articles from my pen dealing with the early settlement
of Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Clay, and Norman counties in
which I have shown that hundreds of Norwegians settled in
these counties in the sixties. These many detailed and pub-
lished studies should be enough to show that I did not mean
that immigration did not begin until the railroad reached
Alexandria.

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Ephraim, Wisconsin

A NOTE ON THE SELECTION OF THE FIRST
GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA TERRITORY

Dr. William W. Folwell in his History of Minnesota, 1: 248,
calls attention to the interesting fact that President Zachary
Taylor in 1849 first submitted the name of Edward W. Mc-
Gaughey of Indiana to the United States Senate for the