

OLD SETTLERS' MEETING.

[Extract from an account of the first Settlers' Meeting in Wayne county, and probably the first in the State, taken from the *Richmond Jeffersonian* of September 13, 1855.]

PRESIDENT, David Hoover; vice-presidents, Smith Hunt and John Peele. After prayer, some interesting portions of the proceedings of the first Board of Commissioners of Wayne county, dating as far back as 1817, were read, which were illustrated by relations of divers incidents of those early days by Messrs. Rariden, Test, Newman, and others.

John Beard, of Milton, was then called on for his "experience." He gave an account of his removal to this region, and the gratification he felt in exchanging the red soil, full of flint stones, of his native Carolina, for the black and fertile lands of Indiana. In the vigor of youth, he regarded not the Herculean labors and hardships which then rose before him, for, to use his own words, he "felt that he had a fortune in his own bones." He declared that, although looking back from the present time the lives of the pioneers might appear by no means enviable, yet they did not so seem to these who experienced them. Mr. Beard added, among other interesting facts, that a little daughter of his own was the first white person who died in the present limits of Wayne county (in 1807); and that the first settlers had to go either to Lawrenceburg or Hamilton to mill.

Mr. Beard was followed in similar details of experience by Smith Hunt, Henry and Frederick Hoover, John Peele, Jeremiah L. Meek, and others.

Perhaps both the oldest man and the oldest settler present was Hugh Cull.

The next meeting is appointed for the last Sunday in September, 1856, at Centreville. The idea of such meetings is highly laudable, and we trust that hereafter, due efforts will be made to enlist the interest and presence of as many of the early settlers as possible, so as the more effectually to further the objects proposed by these social reunions of the rapidly diminishing remnant of the men and women to whom the present generation are so much indebted.