

**Biographical Review of Des Moines County, Iowa, Containing  
Biographical and Genealogical Sketches of Many of the  
Prominent Citizens of To-Day and Also of the Past**

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esting manner and with tender pathos. It is followed by an exceedingly vivid description of a bull-fight which the author witnessed in the City of Mexico, and by other stories relating to different sorts of people. All show a wide range of observation, and the large sympathy of the author with the toiling and submerged children of our common humanity, the castaways of a boasted civilization. The book should awaken the public conscience to wiser and more effective measures than have yet been found for the moral and industrial education of every child that is born, for a more equitable distribution of land, and for a better housing of the poor in the crowded cities. The early life of the author was in Woodbury county, Iowa, where her mother died in 1863, a martyr to "the blizzards of the savage wilderness" in the pioneer days of northwestern Iowa.

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*Miriam.* By Julia Baldwin McKibben. N. Y., Eaton & Maines, 1905, pp. 331.

This is a story of the civil war, of a southern plantation, and of a slave girl with a good deal of white blood in her veins, who through many moving incidents, divers adventures, and the whirligig of war, rises above racial inferiority and gains respectability and a good standing among white people. Her "mammy" is a well-drawn character, though with a pathos of negro dialect in her shrewd common sense. The book is written in the interest of humanity, in sympathy with the industrial work of Booker Washington, and the amelioration of the race problem. The author is a native of Van Buren county, daughter of the late Charles Baldwin, of Keosauqua; her mother was a sister of the late George G. Wright, Chief Justice, and U. S. Senator.

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*Biographical Review of Des Moines County, Iowa, containing Biographical and Genealogical Sketches of Many of the Prominent Citizens of To-day and also of the Past. Illustrated.* Chicago: Hobart Publishing Company. 1905.

The title of this handsome volume describes it fairly and fully. In its 1101 large and beautifully printed pages it presents well-written sketches of the noted men who have lived in Burlington and Des Moines county from the time of their early settlement. It is not a work in which no man appears who does not pay money for that privilege, but is impartial, like a general cyclopedia, freely giving its subjects space in accordance with their position and consequence in the community and State. Many of the sketches are accompanied by fine steel or half-tone portraits, adding greatly to the attractiveness of the book, which in all respects is the finest of the kind published in the State—a work which will be very useful in Iowa libraries. Most appropriately, the frontispiece is a splendid steel portrait of the lamented Philip M. Crapo, philanthropist and statesman. The only objection we can see to this volume is its great size and weight, and its liability to go to pieces. It should have been issued in two or three octavos.

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