

Death of An Iowa Author

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a complete record of the official executive acts of Governor Lucas during his term of nearly three years.

After the discovery of the *Executive Journal*, Mr. Parish made several visits to the home of the grandson, Robert Lucas. With renewed zeal the search was carried into the attic of the old home of Col. Edward Lucas, a son of the Governor who had lived near Iowa City. There *The Robert Lucas Journal of the War of 1812* was found along with two boxes containing hundreds of manuscript letters and papers written by or addressed to Robert Lucas and covering a period of nearly fifty years. The entire collection, which has been carefully examined by Mr. Parish, is perhaps the richest and most extensive body of historical material that has thus far come to light in this State. With the discovery of the Lucas letters and papers comes the hope that the letters and papers of his successor, Governor John Chambers, are still in existence and will some day be accessible to students of Iowa history.

DEATH OF AN IOWA AUTHOR.

The poem, "There is no Death," has been made familiar to most readers by the fact that it has been reprinted hundreds of times, and copied in whole or in part in numberless obituary articles or addresses, since it was written by an Iowa journalist in 1863. The author was J. L. McCreery, who published a weekly paper at Delhi, Delaware county, Iowa, about fifty years ago, and was later employed on other Iowa papers. After his journalistic career in Iowa, he was appointed to a clerkship in the General Land Office at Washington, D. C., which he doubtless held up to the time of his last illness. He passed away at Duluth, Minn., after a surgical operation, Sept. 7, 1906. For some years after he wrote this poem there was a dispute concerning its authorship, as there was in relation to that of "The Burial of Sir John Moore" and "Ben Bolt." Mr. McCreery's right to it was made a matter of doubt by the fact that it was so often attributed to Sir Edward

Bulwer-Lytton. The difficulty of getting the question settled had vexed and made him somewhat indifferent on the subject. Two versions had appeared, creating still further confusion. Knowing him intimately and well the editor of *THE ANNALS* invited him to give its history in these pages. We also urged him to tell our readers how there came to be two versions of the poem. He fully complied with our requests, though in a half jocular manner, and his interesting article may be found in Vol. I, 3d series, pp. 196-209. A fairly good half-tone portrait of Mr. McCreery accompanies the article. The publication of his own clear and explicit statement has settled the question of authorship for all time. It may be found in most of our Iowa libraries and will always be read with interest.

THE RECORDS OF THE IOWA SOLDIERS.

During the past three or four years there has been considerable agitation in this State on the subject of republishing the records of the soldiers of the civil war. The rosters of the different commands were published by the Adjutant General during the war period, but the work was done in haste and there were many errors and omissions which may be corrected at this time. This work properly belongs to the office of the Adjutant General of the State, and if legislation is secured for that purpose there will be no question as to who shall superintend the work. It will, of course, emanate from that office. Scarcely a day passes in which a revised edition of the Reports of Adjutant General N. B. Baker is not needed in the Historical Department. This is not only a final measure of justice to the men who stood behind the guns in 1861-65, but a matter of the greatest public convenience. This work should be undertaken under the editorship of the finest military scholar in the State and no pains spared to secure completeness and accuracy. The States of Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, and we presume still others, have published what are models in their way. All the States, north as well as south, will sooner or later provide for

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