

## Reclaimed Areas and Iowa Areas

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“Friends, today, at this hour, our great chief is being looked upon by Monito. He knows that he has led the life of service to his people. He sacrificed his life for the country he loved. We realize that the Great Spirit is with us at this hour, receiving unto his folds our great chief and his blessings rest upon his people. He will not live amidst evils and temptations but will dwell in the life of continuous happiness where the Great Spirit places his children in the great beyond. It is we who are living that must often ask blessings. He, our great chief, has set us the example, if we all follow, we will meet our great chief in heaven above.”

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### RECLAIMED AREAS AND IOWA AREAS

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Contrast between the physical resources of Iowa and the West is often easy to state and to illustrate. Natural resources in Iowa compared with the artificial resources in the West, suited to the habitation of man and his engagement in agricultural pursuits, are interesting to consider in the following instance.

The Arrow Rock dam in Idaho, one of the great government reclamation projects, is the loftiest dam in the world. One great journal asserts that upon the formal dedication of this dam there was added a total farm area of 243,000 acres—“an empire in itself.” A million tons of concrete 351 feet high, a masterpiece of engineering, “impound behind it the waters that raise mortgages and will repay its cost in a few years.”

The Iowa Department of Agriculture informs us that in our state the average in each of our 99 counties is 339,216 acres actually in farming lands, after the deduction of waste land, timber, roadways, farmsteads, cities, and towns.

In comparing this 339,216 acres in Iowa farms “raising mortgages” in each county, with the 243,000 acre “empire” added in an Idaho dedication, we are aware of the humor in the observation

the late Judge Walter L. Smith said he once made to Colonel Roosevelt on the occasion of a similar dedication, namely, "If this deserves a dedication by you, Iowa should have 99 dedications by presidents annually, forever."

### MRS. LYDIA H. SIGOURNEY AND IOWA

In the article on Thomas Gregg, published in this number of the *ANNALS*, there appears a letter from Mrs. Lydia H. Sigourney to Mr. Gregg, which leads to the knowledge that the noted authoress was greatly interested in the West, and that she was very popular in Iowa. It seems that a copy of Mr. Gregg's paper, the *Western Advertiser and Herald of the Upper Mississippi*, containing an account of the funeral of an Indian girl at Montrose came to Mrs. Sigourney's attention, which caused her to write the poem, "Indian Girl's Burial." From "Pocahontas, and Other Poems," by Mrs. L. H. Sigourney, published by Robert Tyas, London, 1844, page 161, we quote as follows:

#### INDIAN GIRL'S BURIAL.

"In the vicinity of Montrose, Wisconsin Territory, the only daughter of an Indian woman of the Sac tribe, died of lingering consumption, at the age of eighteen. A few of her own race, and a few of the pale faces were at the grave, but none wept, save the poor mother." *Herald of the Upper Mississippi*.

A voice upon the prairies  
 A cry of woman's woe,  
 That mingled with the autumn blast  
 All fitfully and low;  
 It is a mother's wailing;  
 Hath earth another tone  
 Like that with which a mother mourns  
 Her lost, her only one?

Pale faces gather round her,  
 They mark'd the storm-wind high  
 That roars and wrecks the tossing soul,  
 But their cold, blue eyes are dry,  
 Pale faces gaze upon her,  
 As the wild winds caught her moan,  
 But she was an Indian mother,  
 So she wept her tears alone.

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