

McCreery, a well known Iowa man, to take steps to settle the question in a manner which should thenceforth admit of no doubt. He did not do this, and his poem has continued to go "the rounds of the press" and to be quoted in funeral oratory as the work of the late Lord Edward Bulwer Lytton, the distinguished author of "The Last Days of Pompeii" and other great novels. True, within the past two or three years, Hon. Theodore S. Parvin and others, in the interest of justice, have undertaken to set the matter right—in fact, have well nigh dissipated all doubt upon the subject. Mr. McCreery also had written one or more letters relating to it, which seemed to be fairly conclusive. But nevertheless there were points which might be raised in the future, and tend to throw doubt upon these attempts to set the matter right. The principal difficulty in this direction was the fact of there being more than one version of the poem in circulation. We therefore, earnestly urged Mr. McCreery to consider all these points and present to our readers the history of his great poem, making everything relative to it clear and authoritative. This he has done. It affords us great pleasure to present his statement in our pages, accompanied by a fairly good reproduction of his portrait. We are spared the necessity of saying more concerning the poem, for his own account is full and graphic to a remarkable degree, and will be found exceedingly interesting.

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#### "FIT TO COMMAND AN INDEPENDENT ARMY."

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That General Marcellus M. Crocker had a strong hold upon the affections of the people of Des Moines is evinced by the facts that one of the foremost of the city schools, a street, a public park, a post of the Grand Army, and a railroad station near by, all bear his honored name. His old brigade, which won imperishable renown under his command, also holds a reunion every two years and publishes reports of its transactions. Many people still reside here who knew him intimately and well, the writer of this item among the number. He was two years at West Point, but had to leave the

school in consequence of the necessities of his family at home. He was, therefore, possessed of much military knowledge. Before the war, he had attained a conspicuous position as a lawyer, and was known throughout the State as a shrewd and most active Democratic politician. He was a wide-awake, breezy, large-hearted, "good fellow," possessing great personal popularity. He entered the service in very feeble health, but rose rapidly to the rank of Brigadier-General, and but for his untimely death would very soon have been made a Major-General, with a lower rank in the regular army. Some day we hope to present a sketch of his most brilliant career. Just now we simply place on record the fact that his friends, Messrs. P. M. Casady, J. S. Polk, Geo. G. Wright, Barlow Granger, Isaac Brandt, Geo. Whitaker, J. W. Cheek, E. L. Marsh, R. S. Finkbine, Hoyt Sherman, B. F. Gue and Charles Aldrich, have caused to be cut upon his monument in Woodland Cemetery the famous words which General Grant wrote in his book—"General Crocker was fit to command an independent army"—than which one hero could not more highly compliment another. These words cut in the marble block are duly credited—"U. S. GRANT."

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#### RIVER LAND INVESTIGATION.

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Under direction of Hon. Hoke Smith, Secretary of the Interior, an agent of the Department has been engaged during the past summer in investigating the claims of settlers upon the Des Moines River lands. The end in view is to secure from Congress indemnity for their losses. The great case in their behalf, which was taken to the Supreme Court of the United States by the Attorney General of Iowa, having failed, this course is the only one left. However, it does not vary in any material respect from that instituted and ably prosecuted by Hon. Cyrus C. Carpenter in his first term as Governor. Hon. John F. Duncombe was then a member of the Iowa House of Representatives, and earnestly supported the measure. Under the law which was passed, with little or no oppo-

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