

ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

A NOTABLE BEQUEST

In harmony with the counsel and conduct of the last twenty-five years of his life, General Grenville M. Dodge provided in his will, executed February 9, 1911, the following bequest:

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THIRD. I give and bequeath to the Historical Department of Iowa, of which E. R. Harlan is at present the Curator, my Army and Civil Commissions and Diplomas and my Army Records, Maps, Photographs and Reports and letters of Historical interest; also all my records, Reports, Maps, Plans, Letters, Letter-books relating to my profession as Civil Engineer and especially those relating to the surveys and explorations of the two over-land routes to the Pacific Ocean, the Union Pacific and Texas-Pacific both of which are of historical interest; also one of the seven typewritten volumes of the compiled and complete records of my life. If the said Historical Department shall determine that the above described documents and records supply data for a publication of public interest or utility and shall arrange for such a publication in such a manner as shall be approved by my Executors and Trustees, hereinafter named, then in that event, I authorize my said Executors and Trustees to contribute out of my estate towards defraying the cost of preparing and publishing the same, under the auspices of the said Department, a sum not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars, and my Trustees and Executors are also entitled to appropriate out of my estate such sum as their judgment would approve for any suitable monument or memorial to me.

FOURTH. My painting as Grand-Marshal of the Grant Monument Inaugural Parade, twelve feet by nine feet in size, painted by Whipple of New York, I donate to the Union League Club of New York City, of which I am an Honorary member.

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Some months prior to the death of General Dodge the Curator of the Historical Department requested that he present to our collections the painting named in paragraph four. It was sent but with it came a letter from General Dodge explaining that it belonged to the Union League Club. The club has declined

the bequest so that our collections become the final repository for this great memorial canvas.

Upon his last visit to the Historical Department General Dodge was shown the apartment in which we proposed to assemble his materials as a Grenville M. Dodge memorial. The architectural features were discussed and their preparation left with the approval of General Dodge to his friend, the eminent architect, Emanuel L. Masqueray. The proposed method of treating the vast manuscript collections and the publication features were broadly canvassed. Soon after the death of General Dodge our Board of Trustees approved the plan of the Curator for the memorial room and the policy of publication, and appointed as a committee thereon Judge Horace E. Deemer and the Curator.

The death of General Dodge occurred on January 3, 1916, that of Judge Deemer on February 26, 1917, and of Mr. Masqueray on May 26, 1917. The general outlines for both the structural and literary features of the memorial were rapidly taking shape when the loss of these two advisers came. But when the whole country turned its attention to the war our own department awaited more settled conditions to take up and complete its work on the memorial of General Dodge. Recently we have received the final portions of the great collection. More than a million items of written and printed matter not only bearing upon, but indispensable to the understanding of western industrial, political and military subjects of greatest importance are now assembled. Plans for their final repository and use will be ready to be announced in the ANNALS in an early issue, and their completion will, we believe, be in full compliance with the letter and spirit of the great bequest of General Dodge.

BLACKSTONE ON PRESERVING HISTORICAL MATERIALS

Sir William Blackstone, in Vol. II of "Law Tracts." published at "Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, M. DCC. LXII." presenting "the Great Charter and Charter of the Forest, with other Authentic Instruments: to which is prefixed An Introductory Discourse, containing The History of the Charters," explains how

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