

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Black Hawk War including a review of Black Hawk's Life, with upward of three hundred portraits and views, by Frank E. Stevens, 1205 Chamber of Commerce Building, Chicago, 1903, pp. 323.

For thirty years the author has been collecting materials for this volume. He is no admirer of Black Hawk, but portrays him as a treacherous savage, without those redeeming qualities that awakened sympathy and consideration for him by many people. Neither is the author an admirer of the officers or men of the Illinois Militia, who went in pursuit of Black Hawk, some for "fun," playing pranks by the way, some to make political capital. He says, "Superior officers seemed not to know how to manage the men, all of whom had votes they dared not antagonize at home. While it was the boast of the army of volunteers that it contained the leading spirits of the State, we are forced to the conclusion that it had been much better for the State and the reputation of the army, if there had been in it fewer judges, members of Congress, and candidates for other offices, and more of such men as Henry and Dodge." It is to the valor and skill and heroic endurance of these men—Generals James D. Henry, for whom Henry County in Iowa was named, and Henry Dodge, afterwards the first governor of Wisconsin Territory—that Mr. Stevens gives the main credit for bringing the war to an end.

The volume contains a detailed and interesting account of the peaceful campaign of 1831, and the "Articles of Agreement" under which Black Hawk removed from Rock river to the west side of the Mississippi, and agreed not to return without the permission of the President of the United States or the Governor of Illinois. It also has carefully prepared and accurate statements as to the part taken by Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis in the war (Appendix A and B).

In writing of Fort Madison, Mr. Stevens falls into the common mistake of attributing its location to Lieutenant Pike. The facts are that the site recommended by Pike was the ground now occupied by Crapo Park, Burlington, which he speaks of, August 23d, 1805, as "a very handsome situation for a garrison, about forty miles above the de Moyer rapids." The selection of Fort Madison was made three years later, by Lieutenant Alpha Kingsley, Sept., 1808. "I have fixed on it," he says, "which is about 25 miles above Le Moine" (ANNALS OF IOWA, 3d series, iii, 100). Neither was Black Hawk present in the attack upon Fort Madison of Sept. 5th, 1812. He had previously in that year, on the breaking out of the war with England, gone to Prairie du Chien, and joined the British in their alliance with the Indians under Tecumseh. His assault upon the fort, when, as he said, he dug a hole with his knife deep enough to hide in, placing weeds around it, and directed his warriors from his ambush, was earlier, soon after returning from the defeat of Tecumseh at Tippecanoe.

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