

a variety of questions seriously affecting the rights of persons in the settlement of estates. They form a valuable addendum to a biographical and genealogical collection. They also afford information which can be secured from no other source, concerning the public health and the existence and spread of contagious diseases. The importance of data, of the correctness of which no doubt should exist, is obvious at a glance. The interests both of individuals and of the State are too important to be trifled with either by incompetent or unwilling officials. Possibly adequate compensation for the work involved, with penalties for its neglect, would secure the desired results.

THE BATTLE OF YELLOW BAYOU.

The leading article in this number of THE ANNALS is historically valuable, and highly interesting. The author, Hon. William G. Donnan, as will be seen, was not only an eye-witness of what he so graphically describes, but an active participant in the affair. His explanation of the course of the gallant Col. William T. Shaw, showing that his instant disobedience of the orders of his commanding officer saved the army from a disastrous defeat, is now for the first time fully explained so that it may be thoroughly understood. It is a shame that he was made to say something in his official report (now a historical document), that he not only never wrote, but which was a suppression of the truth. Mr. Donnan's tribute to his old commander who "still lives" has been long in coming, as he states, but it is every word deserved. The article is a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the Red River campaign which will not be overlooked by those who in coming time shall write the history of that curious expedition. Mr. Donnan speaks of it as the last battle of the Red River Expedition. Col. Shaw always mentions it as "the battle of Yellow Bayou."

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