

dents Abraham Lincoln and U. S. Grant, but of Charles Sumner, Roscoe Conkling, George F. Edmonds, James W. Grimes, William Pitt Fessenden, Thomas B. Reed, and other great leaders of those historic times. His removal of Walt Whitman was simply a quiet, ordinary event, as appointments and removals were every day affairs before the days of "civil service" laws and rules. It is simply "indecent", betokening no great amount of courage, thus to assail the memory of such a man after his death. However, we scarcely expect this sort of thing to cease. Repeated editions of Whitman's works will be called for in the future, and we presume that those who exploit themselves as his especial admirers, and the protectors of his fame, will continue these savage assaults upon Mr. Harlan with increasing acerbity, regardless of any protests by those who knew him from his first appearance in public life until the day of his death. Possibly those who repeat this nonsense are of the opinion that it adds to their own consequence to pose as the defenders of Walt Whitman, who was too great to need defense from anybody.

THE DEATH OF PHILIP M. CRAPO.

The death of this statesman and philanthropist occurred at his home in the city of Burlington on Sunday night, September 20, 1903. He had been traveling in Colorado, where he contracted a severe cold, resulting in an attack of pneumonia, which suddenly ended his life at the age of 59 years.

In this untimely death not the city alone where he had his home, but the entire State has suffered an overwhelming and irreparable loss. Eminently successful in business, he was devoting his fortune and the maturity of his life to the public good. His career had been filled with the proudest

labors. He was a soldier who carried his musket in the Union army during the civil war. It is due to his memory that he should be known as the founder of the Iowa Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown, for he drew the bill which provided for its establishment and successfully engineered its enactment into a law. The erection and opening of the magnificent public library in Burlington, resulted from his liberal use of his own means and his untiring and well directed efforts in that behalf. In like manner he was the founder of the magnificent park which by unanimous public assent bears his name. He had rendered much assistance in the establishment of the Historical Department of Iowa, and gave time and money to the development of historic art in our State.

This is but a partial enumeration of Philip M. Crapo's good works, and he was formulating plans for others which in due time would have become known to his fellow citizens of Burlington and the State at large. Elsewhere in this number we copy tributes to the memory of this illustrious man from the pens of those who knew him in public and private life and as neighbor and friend.

NEW COURT HOUSE AT DECORAH.

On Saturday, August 22, 1903, the corner stone of a new and commodious court house was laid at Decorah, the capital of Winneshiek county, to replace the first one, which was erected in 1857-8. The occasion was a memorable one in the annals of that populous and flourishing county. The orator of the day was Hon. Sidney Foster, of Des Moines. Among the items deposited in the corner stone was a History of Winneshiek County, filling several columns. This was especially prepared for this purpose by Hon. A. K. Bailey, the well-known editor of *The Decorah Republican*, who

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