

Bulwer-Lytton. The difficulty of getting the question settled had vexed and made him somewhat indifferent on the subject. Two versions had appeared, creating still further confusion. Knowing him intimately and well the editor of *THE ANNALS* invited him to give its history in these pages. We also urged him to tell our readers how there came to be two versions of the poem. He fully complied with our requests, though in a half jocular manner, and his interesting article may be found in Vol. I, 3d series, pp. 196-209. A fairly good half-tone portrait of Mr. McCreery accompanies the article. The publication of his own clear and explicit statement has settled the question of authorship for all time. It may be found in most of our Iowa libraries and will always be read with interest.

THE RECORDS OF THE IOWA SOLDIERS.

During the past three or four years there has been considerable agitation in this State on the subject of republishing the records of the soldiers of the civil war. The rosters of the different commands were published by the Adjutant General during the war period, but the work was done in haste and there were many errors and omissions which may be corrected at this time. This work properly belongs to the office of the Adjutant General of the State, and if legislation is secured for that purpose there will be no question as to who shall superintend the work. It will, of course, emanate from that office. Scarcely a day passes in which a revised edition of the Reports of Adjutant General N. B. Baker is not needed in the Historical Department. This is not only a final measure of justice to the men who stood behind the guns in 1861-65, but a matter of the greatest public convenience. This work should be undertaken under the editorship of the finest military scholar in the State and no pains spared to secure completeness and accuracy. The States of Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, and we presume still others, have published what are models in their way. All the States, north as well as south, will sooner or later provide for

the republication of their war records. In this patriotic work Iowa should be a leader, not a follower at the end of the procession.

Not only should the editing be done by the most capable man in Iowa, but the books should be brought out in the best style of the art of printing at this time. When the volumes appear they should be such that every Iowan will be proud of them. Aside from the records of the civil war, the volumes should contain the rosters of all the smaller commands that were raised in Iowa in territorial times, to hold the Indians in check, or to protect the frontier settlers. There were several such commands of which no record exists in the State of Iowa, except that compiled by Harvey Reid of Maquoketa from the recollections of a participant in the command which removed the Winnebago Indians from Iowa to Minnesota. It is not practicable to secure within the State of Iowa any record of the names of the men who volunteered for the Mexican war. The information required is in the War Department at Washington, and nowhere else. It should be faithfully copied and printed here. The volumes should include the officers and men of the Spirit Lake Expedition, the Northern Border Brigade, and the soldiers who served in the Spanish and Philippine wars. The memory of every man who shouldered a musket or drew a sword in the Territory or State of Iowa in response to any of these patriotic calls, should be perpetuated through the publication of these precious records.

EARTHQUAKES IN THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.

Few residents of Iowa, perhaps none, who read the dispatches relating to the terrible wreckage of life and property following the recent earthquakes in California and Chili considered the possibility of such a convulsion here in this region of long rolling prairies and low, far-reaching valleys. No more doubtless did they regard such a calamity as even a remote possibility within the reaches of the Mississippi valley. Ordinarily there is no wit or wisdom in borrowing trouble. On

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