

ANNALS OF IOWA

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

ANNIE N. SAVERY¹

Annie Nowlan Savery was born in London, England, in 1835, and died in New York City, April 12, 1891. She was married to James C. Savery in New York City in January, 1853. They at once removed to Des Moines, Iowa, and started a hotel in a log house on the southeast corner of Third and Walnut streets. Mrs. Savery largely took the management of the hotel as Mr. Savery soon became engrossed in lines of business leading to the development of the city. In 1856 he built the Savery Hotel on the corner of Fourth and Walnut streets, which went under that name until he sold it in 1878, when it was renamed the Kirkwood. In 1887 and 1888 Mr. Savery was largely instrumental in the building of the Savery Hotel on Fourth and Locust streets, later removed and replaced by the present Savery III. In 1883 because of business interests they removed to New York City.

During the thirty years they lived in Des Moines Mrs. Savery exercised a fine influence on the society of the city and state. She is said to have been one of the most remarkable women of the state. Her education was largely obtained by reading and study after her marriage. It is said that her intellectual life may properly be divided into four parts—her investigation of religion, her study of history, her study of the law, and her literary pursuits.

While she belonged to no church, she obtained a very wide knowledge of religious history and of doctrinal beliefs and was a liberal contributor to religious institutions. She obtained a very extensive knowledge of the history of the leading nations of the world and was able to discuss with ease international difficulties and questions. In the development of her intellectual life she took up the study of the law, not with a purpose of practicing but to obtain an understanding of the origin of the rights of persons and property, especially the rights of married women. She was graduated from the Law Department of the State University of Iowa in 1875.² She became a woman suffragist and

¹Not being able to find definite biographical material relating to this noted Iowa woman, we have assembled the facts included in this sketch.

was accounted one of the leaders of that time in that cause. However, she was not as radical as many of the leaders, and although she lectured for woman suffrage she finally abandoned it for the time being, thinking it at that time impractical and inexpedient. Her later reading and study was largely along the lines of general literature.

It is said that she and her husband were very devoted to each other and that she was very helpful to him in all his great business enterprises.³

JOHN L. McCREERY AND HIS NOTED POEM

We are in receipt of a letter from Mrs. Albine Galpin Brown of Delhi, the old county seat of Delaware County, in which she encloses the manuscript of an article on John L. McCreery written by her daughter, Kathryn Galpin Brown, whose death occurred some two years ago. John L. McCreery was an honored citizen of Delhi in the late fifties and early sixties. Besides being superintendent of schools of Delaware County, he was also editor of the *Delaware County Journal*. He was also a poet of talent, and among his productions was the beautiful poem, the opening stanza being

There is no death! the stars go down
To rise upon some other shore,
And bright in heaven's jeweled crown
They shine forever more.

Its authorship was mistakenly attributed by many to the noted Lord Lytton. In 1893 when Charles Aldrich was editor of the ANNALS he wrote to Mr. McCreery, who then lived in Washington, D. C., and received from him a letter setting out in detail the circumstances of his writing the poem, and the confusion in the minds of the public for some years at least, of the authorship. The letter was published in the ANNALS, Vol. I, No. 3, October, 1893.

Miss Brown made considerable research concerning Mr. McCreery for the preparation of the paper referred to above. Concerning his death and the marking of the location of his home in Delhi by the Delhi Woman's Club we are permitted to quote as follows:

²The first woman admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Iowa was Mary B. Hickey of Newton (later Mrs. Mary Wilkinson of Pomona, California), who was admitted June 25, 1873. Mrs. Savery was admitted June 29, 1875, and on the same day Mrs. Mary Emily Haddock of Iowa City was also admitted.

³See *Des Moines Register*, April 15, 1891, p. 6; April 18, 1891, p. 6.

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