

ANNALS OF IOWA

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

BIOGRAPHY OF GENERAL G. M. DODGE

Perkins, J. R. Trails, Rails and War. The life of General G. M. Dodge: Published under the Auspices of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa, Edgar R. Harlan, Curator, 371 p. Indexed. Illustrated. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, 1929.

This volume results from the bequest of General Grenville M. Dodge of Council Bluffs. His will was executed on February 9, 1911. His death occurred on January 3, 1916, and the will was probated January 15, 1916.

Paragraph Third of the will is as follows:

I give and bequeath to the Historical Department of Iowa, of which E. R. Harlan is at present the Curator, my Army and Civil Commissions and Diplomas and my Army Records, Maps, Photographs and Records and letters of historical interest; also all my Records, Reports, Maps, Plans, Letter-books relating to my profession as Civil Engineer, and especially those relating to the surveys and explorations of the two overland routes to the Pacific Ocean, the Union Pacific and Texas Pacific, both of which are of historical interest; also one copy of the seven typewritten volumes of the compiled and complete records of my life. If the said Historical Department shall determine that the above described documents and records supply data for a publication of public interest or utility and shall arrange for such publication in such manner as shall be approved by my Executors and Trustees, hereinafter named, then in that event, I authorize my said Executors and Trustees to contribute out of my estate towards defraying the cost of preparing and publishing the same, under the auspices of the said Department, a sum not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars, and my Trustees and Executors are also entitled to appropriate out of my estate such sum as their judgment would approve for any suitable monument or memorial to me.

In pursuance of these provisions the trustees of the estate selected as their author of the work the Reverend J. R. Perkins of Council Bluffs.

This selection was approved in due time by our Board of Trustees. Our facilities were tendered to the trustees of the

Dodge estate and to their author for his execution of the work. A full statement of these details is presented in the introduction of his book by Reverend Perkins.

The editor of the *ANNALS* asserts with confidence that there has never been done in Iowa a more delicate, difficult, painstaking and thorough piece of biographical writing than was done on this book. From first to last of his eighty-five years General Dodge produced and preserved the writings and objects forming the evidence of his activities. His achievements were those of a distinguished man. Had he performed in but one of his fields he would have been known and honored beyond the borders of his state. As he was an engineer, a soldier, a financier, a writer, a patriot and a philanthropist, his name is carried high on the roll of distinguished men in all of these fields. In the annals of accomplishment of each of them his counsels are recorded. At vital points in the progress of each the wisdom, daring, fidelity or valor of Grenville M. Dodge is evidenced by his own acts or the testimony of his associates.

From almost a myriad of original Dodge missives, documents, objects and literary products in our perpetual keeping, or from their duplicates, Mr. Perkins has produced with singular success this fine volume. We believe the purposes of the will, the obligation of his estate and of our institution, and the opportunity of Reverend Perkins have been most adequately fulfilled.

The *Madison* (Wisconsin) *Argus* says that the telegraph from Milwaukee to that place has been in operation several months, and during that time it has not been out of working order for a single hour. The line that runs past this place has been out of order nearly half the time, and the *Republican* says that the line east of St. Louis has been out of repair so much during the past winter that it has been almost useless as a means for carrying intelligence.—*The Iowa Statesman*, Fort Madison, Iowa, March 3, 1849. (In the Newspaper Division of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.)

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