

cation there. No one has ever placed on record that he had been told that there was such a fort there, by one who had seen it."

The *History of Crawford County, Wisconsin*, was published soon after the reading of that paper. In it, extending from page 329 to page 334, inclusive, is an article, written by me, entitled "The French Fort—a Myth." I repeated in that article substantially what is found in the foregoing extract, leaving out all reference to the United States map of 1820. I do this in the first paragraph on page 329 of that work; then the authorities bearing upon the subject are given, and my reasons for the grounds taken.

The Real Issue

The reader will not fail to observe that the only purpose I have, both in the Address and County History, in treating of the subject at all is, to prove that there never was a French fort within the present limits of Crawford County, Wisconsin. Prof. James D. Butler, LL. D., and Lyman C. Draper, LL. D., corresponding secretary of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, say there has been such a fort within what now are the limits of that county; and this makes up the issue between us.

Now, if the reader will turn back, in this volume, he will find an article entitled, "French Fortifications near the mouth of the Wisconsin, 'Hold the Fort,'" extending from page 54 to page 63, inclusive, wherein Prof. Butler argues his side of the question, and Dr. Draper annotates what he says, with approval generally, citing an additional authority and corroborating the professor's statement that there was within what are now the limits of Crawford County, Wisconsin, a French fort—at least one, probably two. Prof. Butler's paper and Dr. Draper's annotations, together constitute a criticism upon what I had previously written concerning the supposed French fort in Crawford County.

And now as to Prof. Butler's article: He begins by quoting from my paper read before the Madison Literary Club, the real point at issue; but he simply quotes and makes no comments thereon. Then he follows with a paragraph