

a volume on the so-called Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May, 1775—a painstaking and most exhaustive monograph it certainly would have been, if finished. For some time he was engaged with the late Consul W. Butterfield, in the preparation of a work to be entitled, *Border Forays and Adventures*; the manuscript appears to have been completed, but was never published. His last weeks of work were spent in preparing notes for a proposed republication by Robert Clarke & Co., Cincinnati, of Withers's *Chronicles of Border Warfare* (Clarksburg, Va., 1831); he had annotated about one-third of the volume, and prepared a preface and memoir.¹ He frequently contributed biographical articles to encyclopædias; some of the sketches of noted border heroes in Appleton's *Cyclopaedia of American Biography* are from his pen.

Perhaps one of the greatest difficulties under which Dr. Draper labored was that in his desire to inform the public he attempted too much. The variety of plans for historical works which for the last forty years of his life he had in various stages of preparation is quite surprising. Instead of concentrating his efforts, and completing his enterprises one at a time, he continually added to each, never pausing in his zealous search for fresh details, but in an excess of conscientious caution ever hesitating to construct his proposed edifices, for fear that there might yet be found new and better quarries.

Despite his ambition to work in a broader field, Dr. Draper's chief work as an historian was the editing and publication of the *Wisconsin Historical Collections*. Ten large octavo volumes of 500 pages each were issued under his editorship. These constitute a vast mass of original material bearing upon the history of the State, particularly the pre-territorial epoch: all of it gathered by Dr. Draper, either through personal solicitation of manuscripts from prominent early pioneers, or by means of interviews with old-time celebrities, white and red, by the doctor himself. In the

¹This work was completed by the present writer, and published by The Robert Clarke Co., Cincinnati, in 1895.