

As a citizen of the State, I heartily congratulate my fellow-citizens on this fresh manifestation of their greatness; and, in so doing, I cannot but note the eminent fitness of this last mark of their enterprise to their own peculiar character.

I have the honor to be, yours cordially,

W J MCGEE.

HON. CHARLES ALDRICH,
Des Moines, Iowa.

HON. JOHN F. DILLON, EX-CHIEF JUSTICE OF IOWA.

NEW YORK, May 10, 1899.

DEAR SIR: I esteem it a great honor to have been invited by the Executive Council of the State of Iowa to be present at the laying of the corner-stone of the Historical Building by Governor Shaw on Wednesday, May 17, 1899.

I deeply regret that preengagements in court and distance will prevent my being present on that interesting occasion. Words can scarcely express how much I should enjoy seeing once more the venerable and eminent Mr. James Harlan and listening to the address of the distinguished Mr. Kasson. All who were concerned in laying the foundations of the great State of Iowa may well rejoice for themselves and their descendants in the great work which they did, and they will hold you in perpetual remembrance for your ceaseless and well-timed efforts to preserve the memorials of the beginnings, progress and history of Iowa.

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN F. DILLON.

CHARLES ALDRICH, Esq.,
Des Moines, Iowa.

HON. IRVING B. RICHMAN, EX-CONSUL GENERAL TO SWITZERLAND.

MUSCATINE, IOWA, May 10, 1899.

DEAR MR. ALDRICH: I have received your kind invitation to attend the exercises in connection with the new historical building, and regret that I shall not be able to be present. I should like to hear Mr. Kasson's address, and to join in the congratulations to you on the realization of your hopes and plans. The entire credit is yours.

Cordially yours,

IRVING B. RICHMAN.

HON. ALVIN SAUNDERS, AN IOWA STATE SENATOR IN 1860, GOVERNOR OF NEBRASKA,
U. S. SENATOR, ETC.

OMAHA, NEB., May 15, 1899.

I desire, my dear sir, to return my sincere thanks to you for the kind invitation you have sent me to be present at the laying of the Corner-stone of the Iowa Historical Building, at Des Moines, on the 17th inst. I am very slowly getting over a strong struggle or battle with the grip, which has lasted me all of the latter part of the winter, and for awhile hoped I might be able to come to the meeting; but I see it plainly now that I will not be able to come. I know I would meet with many old friends there, and among these you say ex-Senator Harlan is to preside and Hon. John A. Kasson is to be the orator of the day. These men are my acquaintances and friends and have been for almost half a century—how glad I would be to see them with the others!—but I must submit to the inevitable, and must content myself with wishing you all a joyful and pleasant time.

With great respect I am very truly your friend,

HON. CHARLES ALDRICH,
Des Moines, Iowa.

ALVIN SAUNDERS.

HON. SAM. M. CLARK, M. C.

KEOKUK, IOWA, May 15, 1899.

MY DEAR ALDRICH: I congratulate you upon the success of your efforts. You have earned your triumph. I wish I could be with you, but I cannot.

Yours truly,

S. M. CLARK.

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