

REUBEN G. THWAITES, SECRETARY WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

MADISON, WIS., May 4, 1899.

MY DEAR MR. ALDRICH: I have your very kind invitation of the 25th ult. to attend the ceremony of laying the Corner-stone of the Iowa Historical Building, to occur upon Wednesday, the 17th inst., and beg to thank you most cordially therefor. As, however, I shall at that time be absent in the East, inspecting library appliances for our own new building, it will, I regret, be impracticable for me to be present.

The Wisconsin Society begs sincerely to congratulate the Historical Department of Iowa upon its splendid success and prospects, and sends the heartiest sort of greetings for this interesting occasion. I am, dear Mr. Aldrich, yours very sincerely,

HON. CHARLES ALDRICH,
Des Moines, Iowa.

R. G. THWAITES,
Secy. and Supt.

CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

142 DEARBORN AVENUE, May 4, 1899.

MY DEAR SIR: I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your invitation to be present at the laying of the Corner-stone of the Historical Building; and, in expressing on behalf of this Society its appreciation of your courtesy, to venture the prediction that this auspicious event in the history of the Department will mark the beginning of a period of even greater usefulness for the Historical Department of Iowa.

Yours very truly,

MR. CHARLES ALDRICH,
Des Moines, Iowa.

CHARLES EVANS,
Secretary.

HON. L. S. COFFIN, EX-RAILROAD COMMISSIONER.

FT. DODGE, IOWA, May 29, 1899.

MY DEAR ALDRICH: Allow me to thank you most sincerely for your kind invitation to attend the laying of the Corner-stone of your contemplated Historical Building. I regret exceedingly that I was out of the State at the time. I was at New Orleans attending a convention of the Brotherhood of Trainmen. . . .

Allow me to congratulate you on so much of the great victory you have already won. This long fight . . . has been a hard and discouraging one, but you begin to see the triumph from afar. This much now won enables you by increased faith to bring the complete victory nigh. I most earnestly hope your years and strength will be increased and strengthened, so that you will remain to see the full realization of all your hopes. . . .

With heartfelt sympathy and best wishes,

L. S. COFFIN.

HON. HENRY HOSPERS, STATE SENATOR.

ORANGE CITY, IOWA, May 23, 1899.

MY DEAR SIR AND FRIEND: I feel proud of you and your noble work, which will be better appreciated in the future. I was sorry circumstances did not permit me to be present at the laying of the Corner-stone. I congratulate you upon your success, and I am glad that you could see with your own eyes the consummation of your wishes, for which you so patiently and industriously labored. May you many years enjoy good health and happiness. . . . With very high respect,

Your obedient servant and friend,

HON. CHARLES ALDRICH,
Des Moines, Iowa.

HENRY HOSPERS.

MRS. JUDGE AUSTIN ADAMS OF DUBUQUE.

DEAR SIR: The invitation to be present at the laying of the Corner-stone of the Historical Building is received. I regret my inability to be present and listen to the address of Hon. John A. Kasson. . . . The interest in the study of history is beginning to take its place in the education of the people. "To awaken the consciousness of their own past," to study the evolution of humanity and to preserve the facts so that there can be a true history of our time; this is now being appreciated and cared for. As our own civilization becomes perfected we appreciate the history

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