

## Hon. Philip Viele's Address of Welcome to Governor Chambers

Philip Viele

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HON. PHILIP VIELE'S ADDRESS OF WELCOME TO GOVERNOR  
CHAMBERS.

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Having published in the ANNALS a portrait and sketch of the life of Gov. Lucas, we should be glad to follow them with similar memorials of Gov. Chambers, our second territorial governor, and suggest that some one who is well acquainted with the private as well as public history of the latter, prepare a memoir of his life, and send it to us for publication in the ANNALS.

On the 15th of July, 1841, Governor Chambers, who succeeded Governor Lucas as territorial executive of Iowa, was formally received at the Madison House, in Fort Madison, and welcomed to Iowa, in the following address, delivered by the Hon. Philip Viele, then, as now, a citizen of Lee county:—

*Governor Chambers:* In behalf of the citizens of Fort Madison, I have the honor to welcome your arrival in our village. You will find here, I do assure you, those who are capable of appreciating all that is estimable in the private citizen, and distinguished and noble in public character.

The part, Sir, you have acted in the service of our common country, and your devotion to the fortunes of one who, while living, awoke in our bosoms the liveliest emotions of gratitude and admiration, have already made your name and character familiar to most of our citizens.

In entering upon the administration of your government you will, at once, find yourself surrounded by a population industrious, enterprising, intelligent, and patriotic. Men who have brought with them, into this "land of promise," those habits, views, and traits of character which not only adorn private life, but exalt the tone of public sentiment. In the discharge of your responsible duties, and in promoting the interest and happiness of this new and flourishing territory, the wisdom of your measures will be understood, and the purity and disinterestedness of your motives appreciated.

Sir, the character of the most distinguished man in life is never beyond the changes and reverses of human affairs; nor can the impress of fame and immortality be fairly given to it until the object of public regard and admiration has ceased to live, "both to nature and to glory."

I will not invade the sanctity of private affection, nor interrupt the melancholy yet pleasing associations of long tried and intimate personal friendship, now buried in "cold marble;" but there are offices of affectionate consolation which alleviate the griefs we would assuage.

All of Harrison that inspired our confidence and warmed our hearts with love and admiration still exists. We fondly cherish his memory, and embalm his many virtues. His race is run; his sun is set in unclouded glory; and his reputation for integrity, wisdom, and patriotism is now placed beyond the reach of hazard or cavil. He died as he always lived,—enthroned in the hearts of his countrymen.

So rare an occurrence of patriotic devotion, through a long life, is seldom or never to be met with, and will be looked upon by the future biographer and historian rather as an instance of the creative fancy of genius, than as the record of splendid achievement.

Potentates and governors, as well as individuals, should be admonished by the desolation of time of the importance of doing justice and loving mercy; of cultivating that humble and graceful spirit of mind that assimilates our characters to the standard of eternal truth. Then, all that is noble in human action will partake of that high and sublime nature which distinguishes the Supreme Being for all that is truly great, wise, and good.

But, Sir, I will detain you no longer. Again, I repeat, you are welcome to our "cabins" and our hearts.

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