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DEAR SIR: Yours extending to me an invitation to be present at the laying of the Corner-stone of the Historical Building as authorized by the Executive Council was received in due time. I have delayed answering hoping that I might be able to accept the invitation so kindly tendered. It is, however, already apparent that prior engagements for the near future together with imperative demands of my own affairs will make it quite impracticable for me to do so. Allow me, however, to congratulate you upon the success of an undertaking, the credit for which is almost exclusively your own, and to tender to you my personal gratitude for a work on your part that has placed the whole State of Iowa under very great obligations to yourself.

Sincerely yours,

HON. CHARLES ALDRICH,
Des Moines, Iowa.

REAR-ADMIRAL REMEY.
U. S. NAVY YARD, PORTSMOUTH, N. H., May 9th, 1899.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge with many thanks, the receipt of your kind invitation to be present at the laying of the Corner-stone of the Historical Building, by Governor Leslie M. Shaw, at Des Moines, Wednesday, May 17th, 1899. I regret very much my inability to be present on the interesting occasion.

Very respectfully yours,

GEO. C. REMEY,
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy,
Commandant, Navy Yard and Station.

HON. H. D. SCOTT, OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
ALBIA, IOWA, May 15th, 1899.

RESPECTED FRIEND AND COMRADE: Your letter of invitation to attend at Des Moines, on the 17th instant was received in due time. I appreciate the honor, and would very much enjoy the privilege of being present at the laying of the Corner-stone of the Historical and Memorial Building, for which I had the honor of voting for the first appropriation in the Twenty-Sixth General Assembly, and which I hope you may live to see completed and for which you faithfully worked, but on account of family cares and the increasing infirmities of old age I must deny myself the pleasure of attendance, but my love for country and flag fails not.

With kind regards, I am as ever your friend and comrade.

HON. CHARLES ALDRICH,
Des Moines, Iowa.

THE FREE PRESS, CORNING, IOWA.

DEAR SIR: Permit us to acknowledge receipt of your kind invitation of recent date. We regret that it will be impossible for us to attend the laying of the Corner-stone to the Historical Building; but our earnest desire is that the event may be the success we know it is your ambition and effort to make it.

Yours,

CHAS. GRAY,
Manager Free Press.

EX-LIEUT. GOV. B. F. GUE.

DE S MOINES, May 10th, 1899.

DEAR MR. ALDRICH: I regret exceedingly that I shall not be able to be present at the occasion of laying the Corner-stone of the new Historical Building, as I start for the east tomorrow to be absent till late in June. I regard the erection of the new Historical Building as one of the most important events in our State's progress, and should be present if at home.

Yours truly,

B. F. GUE.