

Correspondence [J. H. Harrison]

J. H. Harrison

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of the oldest, and Emerson says—"Tis far in the depth of history the voice which speaketh clear." A memorable day when a state establishes for its people an arc of the covenant from all time to all time. Sincerely regretting my inability to be present, I remain, etc.,

MR. CHARLES ALDRICH,

Des Moines, Iowa.

MARY NEWBERRY ADAMS.

J. H. HARRISON, ESQ., DAVENPORT, IOWA.

May 16, 1899.

DEAR MR. ALDRICH: I very much regret that it will not be possible for me to be present at the laying of the Corner-stone of the Historical Building on the 17th inst. I trust that some notes will be sounded on that occasion which will awaken all the people to appreciation of an important and too long-delayed enterprise.

I wish to congratulate you personally and your co-laborers upon the success now assured in the work wherein you have given the State such untiring and valuable assistance and direction.

Very truly yours,

J. H. HARRISON.

In answer to letters addressed to his predecessors in office by Governor Shaw, in which he expressed a desire, in view of the historical character of the exercises of May 17, to do honor to the former governors of this State at the reception to be held that evening, replies were received from two of them who were unable to attend. The following is an extract from one received from Governor Boies:

If at all practicable for me to do so, it would afford me very great pleasure to accept the invitation so kindly tendered, but I find my time so fully occupied by prior engagements, and the imperative demands of my private affairs, that I am compelled to send sincere regrets.

Governor Merrill, the senior ex-governor of the State, who himself laid the Corner-stone of the present capitol, wrote as follows:

LOS ANGELES, CAL., May 12, 1899.

Hon. Leslie M. Shaw, Des Moines, Iowa.

MY DEAR GOVERNOR: Your welcome invitation found me too ill to respond. I can not explain my regrets. An accident by a street car months ago so disabled me that I can not venture from home. But for that I am sure I would laugh at my gray locks (pretty thin), and board the first train and be on time for your reception. To meet old acquaintances, with the ex-governors of Iowa, with Mr. Kasson and Senator Harlan, would be a treat. Your invitation opens fresh remembrances of old times, running back thirty years, when we laid the Corner-stone of the good capitol of Iowa. Your new Historical Building will be an honor to the State and to its projectors. Aldrich is building a monument for himself. 'Tis fitting that Senator Harlan and Mr. Kasson take a leading part in laying the Corner-stone. They both have done much for the Historical Department and the State. Mr. Kasson is a born diplomat with rare ability. He did excellent work in the interest of the capitol building. Mr. Harlan as senator aided me greatly to get money to clothe and pay the first regiments for the war, and gave me timely assistance with the Smithsonian Institution as to rock for the capitol. Please give these gentlemen and the ex-governors my right hand of fellowship. I still claim Iowa as my real home. She has my respect and love.

Thanking you, I am, truly yours,

SAMUEL MERRILL.

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