

## An Offer

ISSN 0003-4827

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### Recommended Citation

"An Offer." *The Annals of Iowa* 7 (1905), 101-101.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.3187>

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their fidelity to the trust committed to their charge, it is a source of satisfaction to me to remember that I was one of them and entitled to some share of the commendation they have received.

IOWA CITY, April, 1905.

NOTE.—Hon. Peter A. Dey, author of the foregoing paper, was born in the town of Romulus, Seneca county, N. Y., January 27, 1825. His ancestors came from Holland near the beginning of the 17th century, settling in New Jersey. Some of the Dey family served with distinguished credit in the revolutionary war. It was in the old Dey homestead, when Col. Theunis Dey was its occupant, that Gen. Washington had his headquarters in 1780. The mansion was built in 1720 and is in a good state of preservation. The rooms occupied by Washington are still pointed out to the visitor. Mr. Dey graduated from Geneva College in 1844. Among his classmates was a son of Cooper, the illustrious American novelist. He read law for a time with D. C. Bloomer, who was in after years a noted resident of Council Bluffs, but did not seek admission to the bar. His tastes led him in the direction of engineering. His first engagement was with the N. Y. and Erie Railroad. From that time forward he followed his profession as a civil engineer for many years. He was employed on the Cayuga and Seneca Canal, the Erie canal enlargement, the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, the Union Pacific and several other railroads. Mr. Dey made the map upon the showing of which Mr. Lincoln designated the congressional section upon which Omaha was located as the initial point on the Union Pacific road. Mr. Dey's opposition to the action of the Credit Mobilier led to his severing his connection with the Union Pacific company. In 1878 Governor Gear appointed him one of the Board of Iowa Railroad Commissioners under the law of that year. He held the position sixteen years. The only democrat who ever served on that Board, he was appointed three times by governors, twice elected, and once defeated. In 1872 he was elected by the legislature one of the commissioners in charge of the erection of the new capitol. He continued in this work until the completion of the edifice in 1886. This was perhaps his most distinguished service. The commissioners expended three millions of dollars, erecting one of the most beautiful capitols in the United States, receiving universal praise, and incurring no hostile criticism. In 1895 he was designated by the Supreme Court of the United States as one of the commissioners to settle the boundary line in dispute between Iowa and Missouri. This was his last official service. In his later years Mr. Dey has been President of the First National Bank of Iowa City.

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AN OFFER.—Mrs. L. H. Sigourney, the American poetess, has taken a deep interest in the town in Keokuk county which bears her name. She has made an offer to furnish free of charge, such schools in that township as will use them, two of her publications of school books. They are entitled "The Boy's Book" and "The Girl's Book". In addition she will give to the girl and boy, who are the best readers in the school, each a premium.—*The Iowa Citizen (Des Moines)*.  
March 4, 1858.

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