

## The "Scatteration Policy. "

Charles Aldrich

ISSN 0003-4827

Material in the public domain. No restrictions on use.



This work has been identified with a [Creative Commons Public Domain Mark 1.0](#).

---

### Recommended Citation

Aldrich, Charles. "The "Scatteration Policy. "." *The Annals of Iowa* 8 (1908), 474-475.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.3479>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

large body of Iowa citizens and with their assistance, the portrait of their greatest citizen, though not of Iowa.

Recognizing the office of the Christian religion in the building of our State, Mr. Aldrich solicited with an especial ardor the portraits of the Christian ministry. Thus were installed the portraits of Bishops Lee and Perry of the Episcopal church; Bishops M. C. and Thomas Lenihan of the Catholic clergy, Rev. Dr. Salter of the Congregational church, and no less was the ardor with which he presented the matter as to others of the great denominational leaders in and out of the State. Out of this policy came requests for portraits of Luther, Wesley and other leaders, and a fine oil portrait by George D. Chiswick, of Des Moines, of Alexander Campbell, presented by the Iowa membership of the church of which Mr. Campbell was a founder.

The portrait is a copy of one painted by James Bogle in 1858. It was formally presented to the State by the congregations in their annual convention in Des Moines, June 20th. The presentation address was by D. R. Dungan of Drake University, a student under Campbell at Bethany, West Virginia. Hon. B. F. Carroll, Auditor of State, accepted the portrait on behalf of the State. The Douglass portrait was installed without special ceremony.

---

### THE "SCATTERATION POLICY."

(Written by Charles Aldrich.)

When the seat of Government of this State was removed from Iowa City to Des Moines by the act of the Sixth General Assembly, the same law provided that the State University should remain in the old Capitol at that place. It has remained there from that day to this, though occasionally some impracticable individual has suggested that it had better be removed to Ames or Des Moines, but no sensible person has ever seriously contemplated any such contingency. The capital came to Des Moines and the University has enjoyed an excellent growth from that day to this, in which course it will no doubt continue in all the years to come.



MONUMENT, COMMEMORATIVE OF OLD FORT DES MOINES  
Dedicated and presented to the City of Des Moines by Abigail Adams Chapter,  
D. A. R., June 14, 1908.

This action, however, established a precedent of scattering the various institutions of the State which has prevailed from that time to the present. This course has from time to time caused serious apprehension in the minds of many good people. The fear has been entertained widely and possibly with a large sense of justice, that this "scatteration policy" would result disastrously to the State. There seemed in some minds to be danger that the friends of the various institutions would combine for the purpose of securing large appropriations and thereby that our taxes would be greatly and unjustly increased. But some time before these fears came to any such unjust culmination, our legislature, thanks to the wise suggestions of Hon. John D. Hunter, late of Webster City, passed a law that a Board of Control should be set in authority over the institutions, excepting those devoted to education, which existed upon the taxation of the people. Since that wise law, which was put into force by three such eminent business men as Ex-Governor William Larrabee, Ex-Chief Justice L. G. Kinne of our Supreme Court, and Hon. John Cownie, who had long held a high place among the foremost farmers of Iowa, these fears have measurably, if not wholly died out. There is no longer any fear that a combination of the institutions can unduly control our tax levies. And, as a further measure of protection, the legislature has a veto upon the recommendations of the Board of Control. We have here a system of checks and balances which seems wisely adapted to the situation in our State. The "scatteration policy" will no doubt go on.

---

#### TWO COMMEMORATIVE ACTS.

---

The fact that one of the frontier military outposts was established and for a time maintained within the present limits of the city of Des Moines has received some attention in print. But it remained for Abigail Adams Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, of Des Moines, adequately to commemorate the event by erecting a visible mark. On June 14th this patriotic body dedicated and presented to the city of Des Moines a monument of massive carved granite. On

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.