

## A Monument to Aldrich

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Extra General Assembly, the Historical Department had simply been a division of the State Library subject to the nominal direction of the state librarian. The curator under the new authority granted is responsible only to the board of trustees, which is composed of the governor, secretary of state, superintendent of public instruction and the nine Supreme Court judges.

In conclusion it seems worth while to say that this fine institution with its many and varied facilities and collections, freely available to the historian, research worker, student of Iowa history and the general public, invaluable to posterity, is today accepted in a matter of fact spirit by many of the citizens of Iowa and faces the same apathy on the part of our legislators for support both financial and moral, as was encountered by its founders in the three decades prior to the first legislative enactment authorizing the establishment of the State Historical Department of Iowa.

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#### A MONUMENT TO ALDRICH

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The Iowa historical building, whose corner stone was laid this afternoon, will be a perpetual monument to Mr. Charles Aldrich. It is eminently proper it should be so. He conceived the idea, projected the plans and pressed to fruition in stone and steel this great work. Just fifteen years ago this month a conference was held between Mr. Joseph Beck, of the supreme court of Iowa, and Mr. Aldrich in which the latter offered to donate to the state his private historical collection as a nucleus for a future state museum of art, literature and history. It was the one thing which the new state capitol just completed and occupied, lacked. . . . While in a greater measure the people of the whole state should be congratulated, it is fitting that to him personally, on this occasion, there should be given assurance of appreciation.—*The Daily Gate City*, Keokuk, Iowa, May 18, 1899. (In the Newspaper Division of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.)

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