An Offer

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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 Hol-
land 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 1789. 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 designa-
ted 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 1879 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 com-
pletion 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.

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.