



Pieces of Iowa's Past, published by the Iowa State Capitol Tour Guides weekly during the legislative session, features historical facts about Iowa, the Capitol, and the early workings of state government. All historical publications are reproduced here with the actual spelling, punctuation, and grammar retained.

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THIS WEEK: Capitol Quotations

BACKGROUND: The following quotes are found throughout the Capitol building. The quotes were chosen by Governor Albert Cummins and placed in the Capitol as part of the Capitol Improvement Commission's decoration project (painting of interior ceilings, wall stenciling, interior gilding, etc.) that took place between 1902 and 1908.

FIRST FLOOR

North side entrance from the east:

"Law is the embodiment of the moral sentiment of the people" – Blackstone
Sir William Blackstone, 1723-1780, English jurist and legal writer. Wrote "Of the Nature of Laws in General."

Middle:

"Iowa – our eyes have been permitted to behold only the beginnings of her glory" – Kirkwood
Samuel Kirkwood, Governor of Iowa 1860-1864 and 1876-1877.

South side:

"Justice is the idea of God, the ideal of man" – Parker²
Theodore Parker, 1810-1860. American Unitarian clergyman and abolitionist.³

North side entrance from the west:

"Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army" – Everett
Edward Everett, 1794-1865. American scholar, statesman and orator.⁴

Middle:

"Iowa – The affections of her people like the rivers of her border flow on to an inseparable union. – Eastman
Enoch Eastman, 1810-1885. Iowa statesman. Inscription on a stone in Iowa that Eastman was asked to contribute for the Washington monument in 1850.⁵

South side:

*"Nothing is politically right which is morally wrong."*² – O'Connell
Daniel O'Connell, 1775-1847. Irish orator and political agitator.

SECOND FLOOR

Above the grand staircase, facing the mural *Westward*.

South side:

No free government or the blessings of liberty can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality and virtue and by a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles. – Henry

Patrick Henry, 1736-1799. American patriot and orator.

North side:

“Courageous confidence in the intelligence of the community is the sure sign of leadership and success.” – Curtis

G. W. Curtis. (Probably) George William Curtis, 1824-1892. American essayist.

North side underneath:

“The ideal state – that in which an injury done to the least of its citizens is an injury done to all. – Solon
Athenian Solon, legislator, 638-559 B.C.

West corridor above State Law Library door:

*“Where law ends tyranny begins.”*¹ – Wilkes

William Pitt, 1708-1778. Earl of Chatham and English statesman. From a speech given January 9, 1770, in the House of Lords in defense of John Wilkes.

Around the rotunda on frieze above the columns:

“This nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth. – Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1865. Sixteenth president of the U.S. From the Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863.

SOURCES

- 1) *The Home Book of Quotations Classical and Modern* 10th Edition - Burton Stevenson, 1967.
- 2) *Forty Thousand Quotations Prose and Poetical* - Charles Douglas, 1917.
- 3) *A New Dictionary of Quotations* - H. L. Menchen, 1960.
- 4) *Funk and Wagnalls Standard Encyclopedia*
- 5) *History of Iowa*, Volume 4. - Benjamin Gue, 1903.