

NEW CAPITOL  
LAYING OF THE  
CORNER STONE  
DES MOINES, IOWA.

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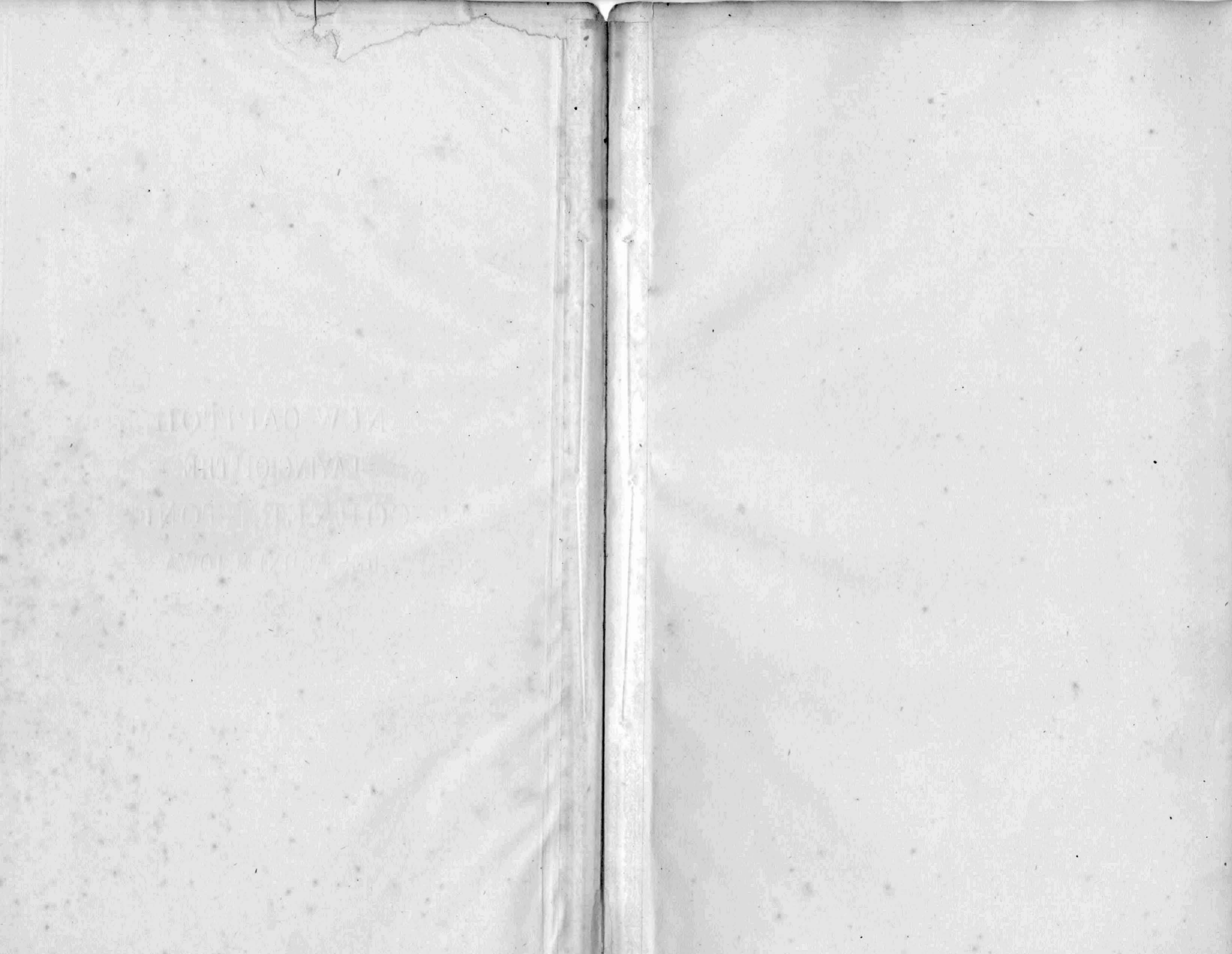
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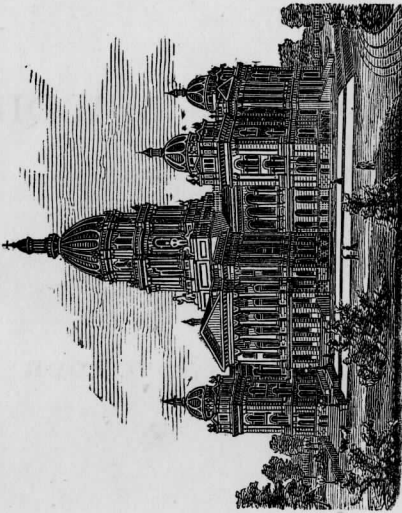


NEW CAPITAL  
LAYING OF THE  
CORNER STONE  
ADMINISTRATIVE



PROCEEDINGS

Laying of the Corner Stone



PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

Laying of the Corner Stone

OF THE

NEW CAPITOL BUILDING,

AT

DES MOINES. IOWA, NOVEMBER 23, 1871.

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DES MOINES:

G. W. EDWARDS, STATE PRINTER.

1871.



## An Act to Provide a New State Capitol.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa,* That there is hereby established a Board of Commissioners, consisting of the Governor, who shall be *ex-officio* president of the Board, and six other commissioners, who shall be chosen by the Senate and House of Representatives in joint convention, and whose terms of office shall continue for two years from the date of their election and until their successors shall be elected and qualified, unless sooner removed from office as hereinafter provided; which Board shall be charged with the execution of the provisions of this act, and each member of which, excepting the Governor, shall give bonds to the State in the sum of fifty thousand dollars for the honest and faithful performance of his duties as such commissioner; and the majority of said Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; and said bonds shall be deposited with, and kept by the Secretary of State. Each commissioner shall also keep and sign the oath prescribed by section 2180 of the Revision of 1860, which shall be filed with and kept by the Auditor of State. In addition to the commissioners provided for in this act, Gen. G. M. Dodge, of Pottawattamie county, and Hon. James F. Wilson, of Jefferson county, are hereby appointed commissioners from the State at large who shall hold office for the term of two years, and until their successors are elected and qualified. Their duties shall be such as are imposed upon the other commissioners, and they shall in all respects be subject to the same requirements herein made of the other commissioners, except in the manner of their election.

SEC. 2. Whenever it shall appear to the Governor, and to a majority of the Census Board, that either of said commissioners has been guilty of any malfeasance in office to the detriment of the State, it shall be the duty of the Governor to remove him from his office by written order, setting forth the reasons for such removal, to be filed in the office of the Secretary of State, and by him notified to each member of said Board; and in case of any vacancy so created, or accruing by reason

WITHDRAWN  
1879

of death, removal from the State, or resignation, it shall be the duty of the Governor to nominate and appoint another commissioner in his place, who shall hold his office until the election of his successor in the manner herein provided, and the commissioners authorized by this act, except the Governor, shall each receive, as their only compensation, five dollars per day while employed in the discharge of their duties, and their actual traveling expenses.

SEC. 3. The said Board shall, with the assistance of a competent and impartial superintendent, who shall be an architect employed by them, who shall be a resident of this State, if a suitable person can be obtained, select and determine upon one of the plans for a capitol selected by the Census Board, pursuant to the act passed by the last General Assembly, approved April 8th, 1868, or upon some modification thereof, the cost of which shall not exceed the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars, and shall then proceed with the work in the manner herein provided, and subject to the limitations following, namely:—

*First*—No contract shall be made, the amount of which shall bind the State beyond the sums at the time appropriated by law for such object.

*Second*—All contracts for material and labor shall be in writing, and shall be signed by the contractor and by the President of the Board; and no contract to an amount exceeding one thousand dollars shall be made without prior advertisement for thirty days in at least four daily papers in this State, setting forth the materials and labor wanted, and the time at which bids will be received and opened, and all contracts shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, and all bills shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State, together with such bonds as the commissioners may require for the due performance of the same.

*Third*—In all cases where there are bidders and materials from this State, the preference shall be given, the quality and terms being equally favorable, to the bidders and materials within this State.

*Fourth*—The Board shall keep a full and complete record of all their orders, contracts, and doings in the premises, and shall have full power to appoint and discharge, at their discretion, a superintendent, whose duty it shall be to superintend the work on said building, which said superintendent shall receive, as his only compensation, such sum as the Board may fix. Said Board may appoint from their own number an executive committee of three, and may delegate to them authority to do such things as the Board, at its regular sessions, may direct.

*Fifth*—All meetings of the Board shall be at Des Moines, and shall be held as often as once in three months, and more frequently if the

same be found necessary, and be assembled on call of the President of the Board.

SEC. 4. All payments shall be made by warrants issued by the Auditor upon certificate of the amount due given by the superintendent and countersigned by the President of the Board, and shall be paid in the name of the person to whom such payment is originally due; and no payment shall be made except for services then actually rendered or materials delivered.

SEC. 5. The building herein provided for shall be constructed of the best materials, and shall be fire-proof, shall be heated and ventilated in the most approved manner; shall contain suitable legislative halls; rooms for the judiciary; for executive offices; for the library; for the committees; for the archives and collections of the State Agricultural Society; and for all purposes of the State Government; and shall be erected on the ground held by the State for that purpose, and the work shall be prosecuted without unnecessary delay; and there is hereby appropriated for this object the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

SEC. 6. No money hereby appropriated shall be paid out until the Census Board shall certify to the Treasurer of State that the resources of the treasury without increasing the rate of taxation are sufficient to meet the proposed disbursements after other appropriations are allowed.

SEC. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Des Moines Bulletin and Iowa State Register, newspapers published at Des Moines, Iowa.

Approved, April 13, 1870.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the *Daily Iowa State Register*, April 14, 1870, and in the *Des Moines Daily Bulletin*, April 15, 1870.

ED WRIGHT, *Secretary of State.*

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

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GOV. SAMUEL MERRILL, President *ex-officio*.

GRENVILLE M. DODGE, Council Bluffs.

JAMES F. WILSON, Fairfield.

JAMES DAWSON, Washington.

SIMON G. STEIN, Muscatine.

JAMES O. CROSBY, Garnavillo.

CHARLES DUDLEY, Agency City.

JOHN N. DEWEY, Des Moines.

WILLIAM L. JOY, Sioux City.

ALEXANDER R. FULTON, Secretary.

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COCHRANE & PIQUENARD, Architects.

JAMES APPLEYARD, Local Superintendent.

FRANK PELTON, Engineer.

## PROCEEDINGS.

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The corner stone of the new Capitol building of the State of Iowa, at the city of Des Moines, was laid with appropriate ceremonies on Thursday, the 23d day of November, 1871.

A procession was formed under the direction of Gen. Nathaniel B. Baker, Adjutant-General of the State, in accordance with the following programme and orders :

### FIRST DIVISION.

Chief Marshal—Gen. N. B. Baker.

Marshals—Gen. J. M. Tuttle, Gen. J. A. Williamson.

Band.

Olmstead Zouaves, with detachment of Artillery.

Fire companies.

Governor of the State, ex-Governors, Governor and Lt.-Governor elect, ex-Lt. Governors, State officers, etc.

Capitol Commissioners, and

Architects, in carriages.

Mayor and Common Council of Des Moines, in carriages.

Invited guests from all other States, in carriages.

Judges of United States Courts, of Supreme Court of this State, District Court, and Circuit Court, in carriages.

Members of Congress, in carriages.

Members of the Press, in carriages.

### SECOND DIVISION.

Marshal—Gen. J. M. Hedrick, of Wapello county.

Assistant Marshals—Col. C. H. Mackey, of Keokuk county; Maj. D. C. Cram, of Dubuque county.

Members of the 13th General Assembly, and Members elect of the 14th General Assembly.

Clergy.



Officers and members of State, District, and County Agricultural, Horticultural and Historical Societies.

Officers of State Institutions and Colleges.  
Superintendents, contractors, and mechanics employed on the Capitol Building.  
Stone Cutter's Association.

THIRD DIVISION.

Marshal—Col. S. F. Spofford.  
Assistant Marshals—Captain R. W. Cross, Hon. J. W. Jones.  
Citizens of Des Moines and from other parts of the State.

FOURTH DIVISION.

Marshal—Col. J. M. Griffiths.  
Assistant Marshals—Maj. A. R. Anderson, Fremont county; Col. S. D. Pryce, of Johnson county; Maj. Thos. Cavanagh, Conrad Beck, Esq., Capt. M. T. Russell, Col. Geo. C. Tichenor.  
Band.  
Members of Turners' Associations.  
Members of Knights of Pythias.  
Members of Sons of Erin.  
Members of Golden Rule Division of Sons of Temperance.  
Members of Des Moines Lodge of Good Templars.  
Members of Union Lodge, Good Templars.  
Members of Planet Lodge, Good Templars.  
Members of Eureka Degree Temple, Good Templars.  
Members of Jocelyn Temple of Honor.  
Members of People's Temperance Association.  
Members of Fort Des Moines Lodge, I. O. O. F.  
Members of Capital Lodge, I. O. O. F.  
Members of Jonathan Lodge, I. O. O. F.  
Members of Ebenezer Encampment, I. O. O. F.  
Members of Pioneer Lodge, A. F. & A. M.  
Members of Capital Lodge, A. F. & A. M.  
Members of Corinthian Chapter, A. F. & A. M.  
Members of Templar Commandery, A. F. & A. M.  
Citizens in carriages.

Members of similar organizations from other towns in this State, or from other States are requested to unite with their brethren in the procession.

Any associations which have not had a proper place assigned to them are requested to notify the Chief Marshal.

ORDER OF ORGANIZATION FOR MARCH AND PROCESSION.

FIRST DIVISION.

The right of the column will form fronting westerly, on Walnut street, with right resting on Fifth street, and composed of band, Zouaves, artillery, fire companies, Governor, etc., invited guests, Mayor, etc., Judges, and Members of Congress in carriages.

SECOND DIVISION.

Members of the Thirteenth General Assembly, and members elect of the Fourteenth General Assembly, Clergy, Superintendents, etc., of Capitol, will form on Second street, between Court Avenue and Walnut street, with right resting on Walnut, and when the 1st Division on Walnut street moves, the 2nd division will unite with the rear of 1st division on Walnut street, and move on.

THIRD DIVISION.

will form on Court Avenue, with right resting on Second street, and will move to join the 2nd division whenever that moves forward.

FOURTH DIVISION.

will form on Court Avenue, with right resting on Third street, and will move to join the 3d division whenever that moves forward.

The march will be west on Walnut, to Fifth street, through Fifth street to Court Avenue, through Court Avenue, over Avenue bridge to the Capitol Grounds.

The different divisions will form promptly at 10 A. M.



## CEREMONIES

AT THE

*Laying of the Corner Stone.*

MUSIC BY MONROE CORNET BAND.

PRAYER BY REV. THOS. O. RICE, OF DES MOINES.

## Introductory Remarks By Hon James F. Wilson.

FELLOW CITIZENS—On the 13th of April, 1870, the people of Iowa, through their representatives, decided that a new Capitol should be erected, of dimensions and character better adapted to the growth and necessities of the commonwealth. For the purpose of executing the work, Commissioners were appointed, who in due time proceeded to discharge the duties of the trust imposed upon them. Their first important duty was the adoption of a plan for the building, combining in all its details the requisite conveniences, as well as taste of architectural design, adapting it to the requirements of the age, and the legislative, executive, and judicial wants of the State.

By a prior law of the State, the beautiful and commanding eminence, overlooking the fair young city of Des Moines, and the valley of the river from which it takes its name, has been designated as the

site of the edifice to be devoted to the future legislative and official uses of Iowa. About one year ago the work of excavation commenced, and on the 17th day of August, 1871, the first stone on the foundation was put in its place, on a bed of concrete masonry two feet in thickness. To-day the greater portion of the foundation walls are laid, to the height of ten feet above the concrete.

We are now convened to consecrate this noble enterprise of our State with ceremonies befitting its magnitude and importance. Sixteen years ago this old Capitol, the building in which we are assembled, was erected to supply the wants of a population of less than 600,000. Since then Iowa has advanced to a population of more than a million and a quarter of souls, and it is but meet and proper that she should rear on this proud Capitol Hill an edifice which shall be the pride of her future millions, and worthy of the wise sons, and it may be, daughters, who shall enact her future laws, and control her future destinies.

MUSIC BY MONROE CORNET BAND.

## ADDRESS

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY, SAMUEL MERRILL,

GOVERNOR OF IOWA.

*Ladies and Gentlemen:*

At the end of the first third of a century of the political existence of Iowa, and as the first quarter of a century since its admission into the Union draws to a close, the State undertakes, for the first time from its own resources, the erection of a capitol building. Thirty-three years ago, the twelfth day of this month, the First Legislative Assembly convened at the town of Burlington and commenced the work of law-making for the sparse settlements along the Mississippi, then dignified by the name of the Territory of Iowa. This, however, was not the first legislative body that had convened within what are now the limits of the State of Iowa. One year before, in the same town of Burlington, the Legislative Assembly of Wisconsin had held its second annual session. Prior to this time, Iowa had been subject to many successive jurisdictions.

Far back in American history this fair land had been taken possession of by La Salle, for his master, Louis XIV. of France. Eight years before, in 1673, white men, in the persons of the adventurous Joliet and his companion, the enthusiastic Marquette, had for the first time trod the soil of Iowa, near the mouth of its great river, that flows here at our feet. In 1697, at the peace of Ryswick, all Europe acknowledged the claim of France to the Valley of the Mississippi, thus conceding to it

the most magnificent domain up to that time held by any European power. Subsequent attempts of other nations to colonize this extensive territory failed, and in the language of our great historian, "France obtained, under Providence, the guardianship of Iowa, not, as is proved for his own benefit, but rather as the trustee for the infant nation by which it was one day to be inhabited." The vastness of the territory thus claimed by France may be judged from the fact that every spring whose waters coursed through the Mississippi and the Missouri to the Gulf of Mexico, was said to be within the limits of the French possessions; and this claim was followed up by settlement.

But France and Frenchmen made slow work in colonizing this western world. As in France to-day, so then in French America, too much was expected of the Government, the people only following in the path pointed out by their social and political leaders: so unlike the ways of the English colonists, who asked of the Government only consent to occupy the lands they discovered; when they had thus occupied them, their own right hands defending themselves and their homes.

Under the royal management in the western part of America, monopoly succeeded monopoly, and gigantic schemes of colonization by companies which were to yield large profits to stakeholders inflamed the people of France; yet few colonists came. Soon followed the collapse of the South Sea bubble. This made the name of Louisiana a stench in the nostrils of the French people, so that in 1763 that nation, when it lost Canada, readily yielded to Spain this western dominion.

Then, indeed, if territorial possessions could enrich a land, was Spain the most opulent nation of which history tells us. Her American empire alone was more extensive than the entire dominions of any other power of either ancient or modern times. Stretching through the torrid and the greater part of the two temperate zones, it embraced the habitable portion of the western half of two continents. It was possessed of all varieties of most desirable climate, and had a soil of unsurpassed luxuriance, while deep underneath lay fabulous stores of mineral wealth. The last was all old Spain cared for, yet she was

fated to touch not one particle of the immense subterranean resources of the splendid domain she obtained from France.

It was not, however, until 1769, after violent opposition from the colonists, that Spain took possession of her new acquisitions. These colonists had meantime organized and maintained for a few years a little republic of their own, the first upon the American continent.

By the treaties of St. Idelfonso, of October 1st, 1800, and Madrid, March 21st, 1801, Spain retroceded Louisiana to France, which country, on the 30th of March, 1803, negotiated a treaty ceding the whole extensive domain to the youthful American republic.

Possession of upper Louisiana was not taken, however, by France until the 9th day of March, 1804, and the very next day the French flag gave place to the American. Thus ended forever the dominion of the Latin races over this vast empire. During the long period of French and Spanish rule over the territory, I find no trace of any attempt at colonization in what is now Iowa, certainly none endured, and now there remains with us no relic of their rule, and we inherit no vestige of their jurisprudence.

By an act of Congress passed October 31st, 1803, the President of the United States had been authorized to take possession of the new territory, and to use the army and navy for that purpose, and to maintain order therein. The same act provided that for the present all the military, civil, and judicial powers exercised by the officers of the Spanish government, should be vested in such persons as the President should direct, for maintaining and protecting the inhabitants of Louisiana, in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property, and religion.

By another act, the Louisiana purchase was divided into the territory of Orleans and the district of Louisiana. This district, comprising the present State of Iowa, was placed under the jurisdiction of the governor and judges of the territory of Indiana. This act took effect, October 1, 1804. On the 4th of July, 1805, the district of Louisiana, become the territory of that name. On the 7th of December, 1812, the State of Louisiana, comprising the larger part of the territory of Orleans, having been previously admitted into the Union, the territory of Louisiana became the territory of Missouri.

In 1821, the State of Missouri was admitted into the Union. From this time Iowa remained without any local government until June 28th, 1834, when it was attached to the territory of Michigan.

It was during this interregnum that the first settlement was made in Iowa. This occurred in Lee county, about the year 1832. Earlier attempts had been made by adventurous pioneers to make homes for themselves on this side of the Mississippi; but all had failed, settlements having been in some cases broken up by government troops, the title to the land being yet in the Indian tribes.

In September, 1834, the Legislative Assembly of Michigan territory erected two counties on the west side of the Mississippi river, viz: Des Moines and Dubuque, the Iowa river being the dividing line. A census of these counties, taken in 1836, showed a population of 10,531.

On the 3d day of July, 1836, the Territory of Wisconsin was organized, including all of Michigan territory not embraced within the limits of the State of Michigan. Under this organization it was, as we have seen, that the first legislative body met in Iowa. This legislature had met, the year before, at a place called Belmont, which name was about all there was of the town. The session at Burlington was begun in a two-story frame house, built for the purpose by Jeremiah Smith, Jr., a member of the Council. During the winter this building took fire and was destroyed. The legislature thereafter met in the Methodist Episcopal church, known as the "Old Zion church." This Wisconsin Legislature further divided the two counties of Dubuque and Des Moines into sixteen, which included all the country to which the Indian title had been extinguished.

Thus, as we have seen, the territory comprised within the limits of the State of Iowa has been a part of the possessions successively of two kingdoms and two republics, and subsequent to its purchase by the United States was under the jurisdiction of no less than five territorial governments.

On the third day of July, 1838, these sixteen counties became the Territory of Iowa. Four months later, as before stated, the Legislative



Assembly began its session at Burlington, in the building occupied the previous winter by the Wisconsin legislature, "Old Zion church." Here were held the sessions of the First, Second, and Third Legislative Assemblies.

Among the first matters naturally to attract the attention of the new Iowa legislature, was the erection of public buildings for the use of the territorial government, for which purpose Congress had in the organic act appropriated the sum of \$20,000. Accordingly, on the 21st of January, 1839, two acts were passed appointing three commissioners, viz.: Chauncey Swan, Robert Ralston, and John Ronalds, to select a site for a permanent seat of government within the limits of Johnson county. There they were to lay out 640 acres into a town to be called Iowa City, and to proceed to sell lots and erect public buildings thereon.

A section of land having been granted by Congress for the purpose, a selection was presently made of lands just purchased of the Sac and Fox Indians, and which were that season surveyed. Here a town was laid out; the first sale of lots taking place the 16th of August, 1839. A plan for the building had been designed by Mr. John F. Rague, the architect, a resident of Springfield, Ill. The Legislative Assembly at its second session passed an act requiring the commissioners having the work in charge to adopt such plan for the building that the aggregate cost, when completed, should not exceed \$51,000, and if they had already adopted a plan contemplating a greater expenditure, they were to set it aside. When the legislature came together in Burlington in July, 1840, Governor Lucas could say that on the fourth day of the same month he had been at Iowa City and found the basement of the capitol nearly completed. January 15th, 1841, a bill authorizing a loan of \$20,000 for the work was passed, the unsold lots at Iowa City to be given as security. Under this act, \$5,500 was obtained.

On Monday, the 6th of December, 1841, the Fourth Legislative Assembly met at Iowa City. Here, as at Burlington, a temporary frame house had been erected for the use of the legislature, which occupied it during the sessions of 1841 and 1842. At this session, the

Superintendent of Public Buildings, who, with the Territorial Agent, had superseded the first commissioners, estimated the expense of completing the building at \$33,330, and at \$15,600 to complete rooms for the use of the legislature. During the year 1842, the Superintendent began to get stone from a new quarry, about ten miles northeast of the city, where a fine bed of rock was found. This is now known as the "Old Capitol" quarry, and yet contains, it is believed, an immense quantity of excellent building material. From this source, the remainder of the stone for the building was obtained. On the fifth day of December, 1842, the new capitol having been sufficiently completed, the Legislative Assembly convened in that building. At this session, the Superintendent estimated that it would cost \$39,143 to finish the house. This, it will be observed, was higher, by nearly \$6,000 than the previous estimate, notwithstanding a large expenditure meantime. This discrepancy may be accounted for by the fact that the officers in charge of the work were constantly cramped for means. Besides the appropriation of \$20,000 by Congress, already mentioned, and loans of \$5,500 obtained from the Miners' Bank at Dubuque, all the funds for the prosecution of the work were obtained from sales of lots, which went off very slowly, from certificates of indebtedness, and from scrip based upon unsold lots, to be received in payment for such lots when sold. At one time the Superintendent made a requisition for bills of iron and glass which could not be obtained short of St. Louis. To meet this, the agent sold some lots for a draft payable at Pittsburg, for which he had to pay twenty-five per cent. exchange. This draft, amounting to \$507, that officer reported to be more than half the actual cash handled by him during a season when the disbursements were nearly \$24,000. With such uncertainty as to means, accuracy in estimates could not be expected. Nevertheless, the work seems to have been prosecuted with prudence, and with all the expedition the circumstances would permit.

Iowa was admitted into the Union December 28, 1846. At this time, there were twenty-seven organized counties, with a population of



nearly one hundred thousand, and settlements were pushing toward the Missouri river.

At the first session of the State legislature, the State Treasurer reported the capitol building in a very unprotected condition, subject to be injured by storm, and expressed the hope that the legislature would make some provision to complete it at least sufficiently to protect it from the weather. The General Assembly responded to this appeal by voting the sum of \$2,500 for the completion of the public buildings. The question of the western boundary of Iowa having now been settled, a discussion arose in regard to the re-location of the capital; it being conceded that Iowa City was too far to the eastward for the permanent seat of government. The first General Assembly accordingly appointed Commissioners to locate the seat of government, and to select five sections of land, being the amount granted by Congress for the erection of public buildings; and granted the unfinished edifice at Iowa City to the newly created State University, to be used, however, by the legislature and State officers until other provisions were made. These commissioners forthwith entered upon their duties, and selected four sections and two half sections in Jasper county. Two of these sections are in what is now Des Moines township, the remainder in Fairview township. These lands are situated between Prairie City and Monroe, on the Des Moines Valley R. R. which runs diagonally through them. Here a town was platted, called Monroe City, and a sale of lots took place. Four hundred and fifteen were disposed of, at prices not strikingly remunerative. The cash payment, one-fourth, yielded \$1,797.43: while the expenses of the sale, and the claim of the commissioners for services, exceeded this amount by \$409.14. When the report of the commissioners making this brilliant financial showing had been read to the House of Representatives, and while it was under consideration, an indignant member, afterwards known as the eccentric Judge McFarland, moved to refer the report to a select committee of five, with instructions to report how much of said city of Monroe was under water, and how much was burned up. The report was referred without the instructions. The result was, Monroe

City ceased to be the seat of government, and was forthwith vacated, the money paid for lots being mostly refunded to the purchasers. The same session, \$3,000 more were appropriated for the building at Iowa City to complete the cupola, the offices of State, the Supreme Court room, &c. In 1850, \$2,500 more was appropriated for completing the State-house; in 1852 the further sum of \$5,000; and finally in 1854, \$4,000 more, making the whole cost about \$123,000, partly paid by the General Government, and partly by the State, but mainly by the proceeds of the sale of lots at Iowa City.

Meantime, the question of the permanent location of the seat of government had not been settled. In 1851, bills were introduced into the House of Representatives to remove the capital to Pella and to Fort Des Moines. That designating the latter place seemed to have the support of a majority of the members, but was finally lost on ordering to a third reading. A bill was introduced into the Senate the following session, for the removal to Ft. Des Moines; this was barely defeated upon the final vote.

The effort was resumed at the next session, and with success; and on the 15th of January, 1855, the Governor approved the bill relocating the seat of government within two miles of the Racoon fork of the Des Moines, and providing for the appointment of Commissioners for that purpose. In accordance with this act, the spot upon which we now stand was selected in 1856; this square with two smaller ones being given the State by citizens and property-holders in Des Moines. An association of private individuals erected the building across the street for a temporary capitol, leasing it at a nominal rent. Having been advised of the completion of this edifice, Governor Grimes, on the 19th of October, 1857, issued his proclamation declaring the city of Des Moines the capital of Iowa. The removal of the offices and archives was forthwith commenced, and continued through the fall of that year. It was an undertaking of no small magnitude; not a mile of railroad was there to facilitate the work, and the season was an unusually disagreeable one. Rain, snow, and their accompaniments increased the difficulties; so that it was not until December that the last of the

effects, the safe of the Treasurer of State, drawn, on two bob-sleds, by ten yoke of oxen, entered the new capitol. It is not imprudent now to whisper that while on this passage, over hills and prairies, across the rivers, and through the bottom-lands and the timber, several of the safes belonging to the different departments, contained considerable quantities of money, most of it, however, individual funds. Thus Iowa City finally ceased to be the seat of government, after having witnessed the meetings of four legislatures of the Territory, and six of those of the State, besides three Constitutional Conventions. On the 11th of January, 1858, the Seventh General Assembly convened at Des Moines, now made by the fundamental law the permanent seat of government. Six General Assemblies have since then held eight sessions in that house, known now, and to be thus known so long as it shall stand, as the "Old Capitol." To this building the State obtained title by purchase in 1864.

Its inadequacy for the purposes of its construction, however, has long been felt. The offices have become more and more crowded, and the legislative halls more and more meager. Accordingly, in 1870, the General Assembly, deeming the time had come for commencing work on a permanent edifice for the State government, took steps to that end by providing for the appointment of a Board of Commissioners, and making an appropriation for a beginning. This beginning you see, and because of it you are here to-day.

I have introduced these sketches of history relative to our beginnings as a territory and State, for the purpose of making up a brief-record for those who shall come after us—a record more useful, I think, and more appropriate, than any display of rhetoric could be. In this third of a century, how marvelous has been the growth of our Iowa. The sixteen counties of 1838, with an average population of 1,500, have grown to one hundred counties, with an average of 12,000 people. Then more than two-thirds of the territory belonged to various Indian tribes. The title of these aborigines has long been extinguished, and where their haunts were, has become the abode of the Caucasian, who has his home in every part of the State.

We have made rapid progress, not only in population, but in all that makes a State great. Then we had a few immigrants from the East and from Europe. Now, every year, more of them, perhaps, than the total population of that day, come among us and are scattered over our State as permanent citizens. Then we had no railroads; now we have three thousand miles of them, laden with the fruits of our industry. Then we had no telegraphs; now the lightning carries our messages from the capital to the many towns and cities throughout the State, and to the far-off corners of the world. Then we had few public schools, now more than six thousand school-houses are scattered over our State, in which three hundred thousand youth are annually taught the rudiments of a good education.

Scarce two score years have passed since the first white settlement was made in this prairie wilderness, where one and a quarter millions of human beings to-day have their homes. Whether regarded from this date, or from that of the organization of the territory, or from that of the admission of the State into the Union, the first years of Iowa show a rapidity of growth unsurpassed in any similar period by any commonwealth of which we have knowledge.

And the record of Iowa has not been all of peace. On the contrary, she has a brilliant martial history, upon whose pages have been emblazoned the gallant deeds of her noble sons. In her infancy, her Mills and her Guthrie shed their life-blood for the flag in a far-off land; and in that later and gigantic contest, when the republic and slavery met in a life-and-death struggle, Iowa's bravest and most enthusiastic sons rushed to the conflict, freely poured out their blood on many a battle-field, and testified by their services their devotion to liberty and the Union.

Looking abroad over our whole country, we can hardly realize the changes which have occurred since we struck out for ourselves. Then the number of the States was twenty-six—their total population about twenty millions. Democracy was comparatively an experiment, put upon trial. Our development in agricultural and mineral wealth had barely commenced. The Star of Empire had hardly started on its



way westward. Much of this mighty Mississippi valley, with its rich soils and mineral deposits, lay a wide wilderness, its abundant riches scarcely imagined. West of the great Mississippi river for thousands of miles was almost an unknown country. Less than a quarter of a century ago we had no Pacific railroad—no San Francisco. California, Nevada, Arizona, all these were Mexican territory. Kansas and Nebraska were not organized. Neither science nor observation had detected their deposits of gold and silver. That now great railroad center of the West, Chicago, was just coming into public view. That vast mineral, grazing, and agricultural region traversed by the Union and Central Pacific Railroads, was noted by historians as the "Great American Desert," or the "Wild Cat Country," in which it would have been a misfortune to own land. Now thirty-seven States make up our beloved country. Forty millions of people press our soil—people who, knowing their rights, dare maintain them. This great brotherhood extends from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico, and from Plymouth Rock on the Atlantic coast to the golden shores of the Pacific. Trials indeed we have had, but God has preserved us even amid the fires of civil war—out of it we have been taken sorely chastened but purified and made better. The Union was saved, because we believed God had a greater mission for this republic to perform. To-day it stands as the beacon-light to all the world, as a monument of man's free agency, and his individual responsibility only to those around him, to himself, and to his God

In the old world, the people, stimulated by the earlier and later triumphs of liberty in the new, rising in their might, have overturned dynasties, shattered thrones, and demolished State churches, those pestilent handmaids of tyranny. Hoary despotisms have yielded to the march of events, and invited the people to participate in governing themselves; while old monarchies have vanished from the face of the earth. The long-locked lands of the East, aged when Rome was young, awakening from their immemorial slumber, have opened their gates, and invited our own countrymen to aid in their rejuvenation, and in developing their yet hidden treasures. And the end is not yet. These

mighty movements cannot stop. The long-suffering masses of the world, beginning to realize what belongs to them, are imperatively demanding all their rights, and these cannot long be withheld. The physical advancement the present century has developed hastens the march of progress. The wonders of steam and electricity, marvelous in their service to man, acquainting people with each other, and drawing continents together, awaken livelier sympathies and enkindle mutual aspirations; so that whatever of advance either may make, others will not be slow to attempt.

In our own country, new states are to be founded, new cities and towns to spring up, and new resources to be developed. In a few years at most, a railroad will be completed from Lake Superior to Puget Sound, a distance of 1,800 miles. This will open to civilization an empire larger and broader than Western Europe; yes, an empire equal in extent to England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Spain. This vast extent, now a wilderness, possesses more mineral wealth, and more excellent soil, than all the countries I have named. We fail to appreciate the grand dimensions and unimagined resources of this vast western continent. But lest I weary you, I turn to the equally inviting fields of our own beloved State.

And what of her future? Who shall measure its capabilities or confine its possibilities? With our vast extent of excellent soil; with millions of untouched acres awaiting the pioneer plow; with immense treasures of mineral wealth stored away for the use of countless generations to come; with a delightful and invigorating climate; with an intelligent and liberty-loving people; with a beneficent system of common schools, the nursery of freedom and the dread of tyrants; the prospect before us bewilders, while it enchants. It behooves us, and those who shall come after us, to build worthy of these grand opportunities, and to use well the means a kind Providence has placed at our disposal. Let us see to it that to the extent of our power we securely fashion the fabric of the commonwealth, that freedom

and equality, justice, intelligence, and public virtue shall ever be its characteristics; that ours shall not be

“A land to hast'ning ills a prey,  
Where wealth accumulates and men decay,”

but one whose material triumphs, while enriching the whole, shall yet not impoverish any; and that the laws to be promulgated from the edifice soon to crown this fair height, while looking to the suppression of crime, the removal of poverty, and the dissipation of their causes, shall ever tend to the true object of righteous legislation—the greatest good of all the people.

—  
MUSIC BY MONROE CORNET BAND.

## ODE.

BY PROF. A. S. HARDY.

Read by Hon. J. B. Grinnell, of Grinnell.

Out of the dawn with fair swift feet,  
Waived of men with hope and tears,  
Wrapped about with a glory meet  
For the long-expected one of years,  
Cometh the prophesied of seers.

Splendor of love is in her eyes—  
Splendor of strength in arm and limb—  
Splendor of truth that halo-wise  
Lighteth the glad earth's distant rim,  
Making a glory in the skies.

She who was as a dream of dreams,  
Behold, a cry hath smote her ears!  
Lo! she that hath promised redeems,  
That thy heart wax not heavy with fears,  
O man, nor thine eyelids with tears.

Sweetness of spring and sounds thereof,  
So is her voice to them that wait,  
Sweetness of pity born of love—  
Yes! thunder of wrath to them that hate  
And fetter the rights of man's estate.

Lo! where her sandaled feet are come,  
Life is quickened of dust long dead,  
A voice leaps forth from lips long dumb,  
A crown is set on the veiled head.

Swifter than birds on wide firm wings,  
Up from their homes by plain and sea,  
Mightier than the seed of kings,  
Gathers the army of men made free,  
Sons and daughters of Liberty!

Swift are their hands to do her will,  
Strong are the knotted arms and bare,  
From the rage that stings and hates that kill  
And subtle weavings of toilers' snare,  
To save her, fairest of earth's most fair.



And through the breadth of her domain,  
 Near stream that foams and sea that shines,  
 In lap of hills and bosom of plain,  
 Wrought of the riches of earth's mines  
 Rise dome and pillar of her shrines.

\* \* \* \*

Many a leaf the summers have shed,  
 Many a bud has blossomed and blown,  
 Many a day the sun has led  
 'Round the wide world's changing zone,  
 Since first her glory earthward shone.

And shifting of battle the world has seen,  
 And steam of horses and gleam of spears,  
 And blooming of meadows fair, made green  
 With the blood of men and woman's tears,  
 Ere the cry of triumph smote her ears.

And one whose blood was freely poured,  
 Whose strong young wrath was as a crown,  
 Quick to draw from its sheath the sword,  
 And last to lay its warm blade down,  
 Goes back to his yellow fields and brown.

And here 'twixt suns that rise and set,  
 'Twixt river and river, sea and sea,  
 Will we build thee a shrine, he said, where yet  
 Our children's children shall worship thee  
 As their fathers have, O Liberty!

Here where with stealthy eye and feet  
 The Indian crept on the trail of war;  
 Let its white walls stand, a symbol meet  
 Of the tablets pure of peace and law,  
 Till the world is dead and time grown hoar.

And freedom shall be its corner stone,  
 And truth the pillars that tall and fair  
 Rise stately above the great white throne  
 Where Justice sits to guard her own,  
 And over all shall hover there  
 The solemn breathing of a prayer.

—◆—  
 MUSIC BY MONROE CORNET BAND.

## CATALOGUE

*Of Articles deposited under the Corner Stone of the New Iowa  
 State Capitol, November 23, A. D. 1871.*

The following list was then read by Mr. A. R. Fulton, Secretary of the Board of Capitol Commissioners:

1. Copy of the Holy Bible, enveloped in the folds of our National Flag.
2. Copy of our National Ode, "The Star-Spangled Banner," engrossed on parchment.
3. Copies of the Constitution of the United States and the State of Iowa.
4. Copy of the Declaration of American Independence.
5. Copy of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.
6. Copy of the Joint Resolution ratifying the Amendment to the Constitution of the United States abolishing Slavery, unanimously passed by the Eleventh General Assembly of Iowa, March 30, 1866, with the names of the members thereof, on parchment.
7. Roll of Honor of Iowa Soldiers, and a Roster of the several Iowa Regiments serving in the war for the suppression of the Rebellion.
8. Copies of the reports of Adjutant General N. B. Baker, giving lists of Iowa officers and soldiers serving in the war for the suppression of the Rebellion.
9. Copy of Washington's Farewell Address.
10. Copy of Governor Merrill's Thanksgiving Proclamation for 1871.
11. Copies of the pamphlet, entitled, "Iowa, The Home for Immigrants," in the English, German, Holland, Danish, and Swedish languages.
12. Copy of the pamphlet entitled, "Free Lands of Iowa."
13. Copy of "Laws and Instructions relating to the Duties of County Surveyors," compiled by Hon. C. C. Carpenter, then Register of the State Land Office, and now Governor elect.
14. Copy of the Revision of 1860, with all laws subsequently passed, including the laws relating to a new Capitol.
15. Copy of the report of the committee on building stone, embracing the report, charts, and tables of Prof. Gustave Hinrichs, of the

Iowa State University, and Lieut. W. P. Butler, giving chemical and mechanical tests of samples of Iowa building stone.

16. Copy of the Report of the Iowa State Agricultural Society for 1870.

17. List of premiums of the 18th annual exhibition of the Iowa State Agricultural Society, with names of officers.

18. List of premiums of the 12th annual exhibition of the Central Iowa District Agricultural Association, with names of officers.

19. A sectional map of Iowa.

20. Names and residences of the State officers, and also lists of the names and residences of the members and members elect of the 13th and 14th General Assemblies.

21. Copy of the Census Report of 1867, containing a complete official register of the Territorial and State Governments, compiled by Hon. Ed Wright, Secretary of State.

22. Copies of all legislative documents of the 13th General Assembly, including executive messages, and reports of State officers.

23. Abstracts of votes cast at the general elections of Iowa for the years 1868, 1870, and 1871.

24. Iowa official and statistical table for the year 1871, with names of State and county officers, and the population of the several counties.

25. A complete list of the judicial officers of the State for the year 1871.

26. Table of statistics pertaining to railroads in Iowa, compiled by Hon S. E. Rankin, Treasurer of State.

27. Copy of Des Moines City Directory, with copies of all city ordinances, and a list of municipal officers.

28. A statement of the population, value of real and personal property, with a catalogue of the manufactures, amount of capital invested, and a list of resident bankers and attorneys of the city of Des Moines.

29. A map of Polk county.

30. A map of the city of Chicago, showing the extent of the great conflagration of Oct. 9, 1871.

31. A chronological table of events pertaining to American history.

32. Calendars for the years 1871 and 1872, with astronomical calculations.

33. Autographs of the several State officers, and members of the Board of Capitol Commissioners—on parchment.

34. Roll of names of the 270 foremen, mechanics, and laborers, employed on the New Capitol during the year 1871—on parchment.

35. Copies of all newspapers, and other periodicals, published in Des Moines; also, copies of the several daily papers of the State.

36. A roll of the names of the members of the Monroe Cornet Band, present at the ceremonies of laying the corner stone, as follows:

J. R. Hall, 1st E flat cornet; Jas. Bain, 1st B flat cornet; Frank Hiskey, 2d B flat cornet; Geo. M. Cowels, 1st E flat alto; S. Dixon, 1st B flat tenor; G. D. Foust, 1st B flat baritone; L. M. Shaw, E flat tuba; Wm. Elrod, tenor drummer; J. C. Carr, bass drummer.

37. Programme of proceedings relating to the laying of the Corner Stone of the new Capitol, with a copy of the address of his Excellency, Governor Merrill, delivered on the occasion.

38. The several denominations of gold, silver, and nickel coins of the United States; also a United States Treasury note, and the several denominations of fractional currency.

39. A photographic view of the design of the new Capitol.

40. Photographs of the several State and Des Moines City Officers.

#### COINS DEPOSITED.

The following are the denominations and dates of the several coins deposited, to-wit:

*Gold*—\$20 of 1870; \$10 of 1855; \$5 of 1853; \$2.50 of 1841; and \$1 of 1851.

*Silver*—\$1 of 1871; 50 cents of 1859; 25 cents of 1858; 10 cents of 1857; 5 cents of 1850; and 3 cents of 1858.

*Copper and Nickel*—5 cents of 1869; 3 cents of 1866; 2 cents of 1868; 1 cent of 1847; and 1 cent of 1869.

#### MUSIC.

## PRESENTATION

## OF SILVER MALLET AND TROWEL.

HON. JOHN A. KASSON, of Des Moines, arose in the audience and addressed the Governor as follows:

GOVERNOR MERRILL, *President of the Board of Commissioners*:—  
The Architects, Messrs. COCHRANE & PIQUENARD, and the local Superintendent, Mr. JAMES APLEYARD, are unwilling that this occasion should pass without some special contribution to its interest on their part. In common with all the people of Iowa, they appreciate most heartily the intelligence, good sense, and perfect honesty of your administration, and especially in respect to this new Capitol whose foundations are now laid. In token of this appreciation, they have requested me to present to you, in behalf of the architects, this beautifully engraved Silver Trowel, with which you may spread the cement in which the Corner Stone will be laid; and in behalf of the Superintendent, this handsomely carved Mallet, of the most beautiful wood of Iowa, and mounted with silver, to be used in setting the stone in its bed.

They ask you to accept these tools of art which are fitly inscribed in memory of the occasion; and pray that descendants of your blood and name may continue to hold them in possession so long as that building, whose foundation stone you will this day put in place by their use, shall stand as the monument of an honest, free, and generous State.

GOVERNOR MERRILL arose and received the souvenirs, remarking that he was taken completely by surprise; that this was a part of the programme not before intimated to him. He would accept the beautiful gifts, appreciating most heartily the good will and kindness of the

donors, and would carefully preserve them as mementoes of the occasion, as well as of the generous sentiments of regard on the part of his friends which prompted the presentation.

*(Inscription on the trowel.)*

*Presented to*

COL. SAMUEL MERRILL,

GOVERNOR OF IOWA,

*by*

COCHRANE & PIQUENARD,

*Architects.*

*Used in setting the Corner Stone of the*

*State Capitol at Des Moines City,*

*Nov. 23d, A. D. 1871.*

*[View of New Capitol.]*

*(Inscription on the mallet.)*

To GOV. SAMUEL MERRILL, *President*

*Board of Capitol Commissioners,*

*From JAMES APLEYARD,*

*Local Supt., New Capitol.*

*Nov. 22d, 1871.*

## LAYING THE STONE.

Gen. BAKER, as Chief Marshal of the day, again formed the procession, and the audience repaired to the southwest corner of the foundation to witness the final ceremonies. The leaden box, 20 inches long, by 10 inches wide and 12 inches deep, had been previously filled by Commissioner CHAS. DUDLEY with the articles named in the catalogue, and was now securely placed in position in the cavity under the corner-stone. Governor MERRILL then, using his silver trowel and silver-mounted mallet, smoothed the mortar and adjusted the stone to its proper position, after which, mounting the stone, he turned to the spectators and remarked—"In the name and in behalf of the people of Iowa I pronounce the corner-stone well set."

In these final proceedings assistance was rendered in their several positions by the following named persons, to-wit: JAMES APLEYARD, local superintendent; NATHAN W. SMITH, foreman in charge of the derrick; DAVID D. FLEMING, engineer, and M. C. MEIGHAN, foreman of stone-cutters. The engine used on the occasion is designated as "Double, engine Nos. 1093 and 1094, manufactured by Cook, Rymes & Co., Charlestown, Mass., 1870."



After the laying of the stone the band played the "Star Spangled Banner," after which Rev. THOMAS O. RICE, standing on the corner-stone, pronounced the benediction. As the audience dispersed the Zouave Light Artillery, of Des Moines, commanded by Capt. F. OLMSTED, fired a national salute, and the ceremonies of the day were ended.

The corner-stone is cut from granite obtained in Buchanan county, Iowa, and was presented for the purpose by DAVID ARMSTRONG, Esq., of that county. Its dimensions are 7 x 3 x 3 feet. A panel cut on the face fronting west contains the following inscription:

**CAPITOL COMMISSIONERS.**

GOV. SAMUEL MERRILL,

S. G. STEIN,	G. M. DODGE,	J. N. DEWEY,
J. O. CROSBY,	JAS. F. WILSON,	JAS. DAWSON,
WM. L. JOY,		CHAS. DUDLEY,
COCHRANE & PIQUENARD, Architects.		

On the south end—the stone being in the southwest angle of the Capitol—the bold inscription is briefly:

**A. D.**

**1871.**



