

Samuel Hawkins Marshall Byers, James Depew
Edmundson, Robert Gordon Cousins

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soon became the agent of many non-resident land owners, selling, leasing, paying taxes and acting as legal representative. He knew land values, was reliable and alert, and soon began investing on his own account, and thus laid the foundation for his large fortune. In 1882 he organized the Citizens State Bank and became its president. He was also an organizer and a director of the State Savings Bank of Council Bluffs. In 1897 he purchased a controlling interest in the First National Bank of Council Bluffs and became its president. In 1900 he retired from active business and removed to Des Moines. During his later years he lived principally among his books. In the late 1890's he traveled extensively in this country and in Europe. Although not a college graduate, he was an unusually cultured man. He was a lover of the best in art and in literature, and his extensive private library evidenced it. He had a life-long interest in and gift for the correct use of the English language, and had a reputation as a philologist. His acquaintance with early Iowa history was extensive and accurate. He had many rare friendships, among them being the one with Major S. H. M. Byers, the poet, which began when they were boys together in Oskaloosa. His vivid memory carried all these things to the last few hours of his life. His benefactions were large. He gave over \$250,000 to the Jennie Edmundson Memorial Hospital, Council Bluffs, named in memory of the wife of his youth. His last will provides for the conditional establishment of a \$600,000 memorial art museum in Des Moines.

ROBERT GORDON COUSINS was born on his father's farm in Section 1, Red Oak Township, Cedar County, Iowa, January 31, 1859, and died at the University Hospital, Iowa City, June 19, 1933. Burial was at Red Grove Cemetery, Cedar County. His parents were James and Mary (Dallas) Cousins. He worked on his father's farm, attended country school, and in 1880 was graduated in civil engineering with the degree of B. C. E. from Cornell College, Mount Vernon. In 1904 Cornell gave him the honorary degree of LL. D. He studied law a few months with Col. Charles A. Clark of Cedar Rapids and was admitted to the bar in 1882 and for the following ten years was actively engaged at Tipton in the practice of law. In 1885 he was elected representative and served in the Twenty-first General Assembly, and was elected by the members of the House one of the managers to conduct the prosecution of articles of impeachment of John L. Brown, auditor of state, before the Senate. In 1888 he was a presidential elector, elected on the Republican ticket. He was county attorney of Cedar County in 1889 and 1890. In 1892 he was elected member of Congress from the Fifth District, and was re-elected each two years thereafter for seven times, serving sixteen years, or inclusively from the Fifty-third to the Sixtieth Congress. After his first nomination he always obtained his nomination unanimously. He declined to be a candidate after the Sixtieth Congress, 1907-09. At that time he was chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Soon after retiring from Congress he suffered almost total blindness for a few years, but partially recovered. In those years

and the following ones, with the exception of an occasional delivery of a lecture, he took little active part in affairs. During the World War he delivered a large number of liberty loan speeches over Iowa for which he received a medal from the Treasury Department. The later few years of his life he was inactive. Most critics regard Mr. Cousins as having been the most accomplished orator Iowa public life has produced. Early in his congressional career he took high rank among American orators. His speech in Congress on the sinking of the Battleship Maine and one in criticism of Minister Bayard at the Court of St. James, London, caused him to be called before the most prominent political clubs and societies in the country. Among his notable lectures were "Lincoln and the Great Commander," "Alexander Hamilton," "The Making and Unmaking of the Constitution," "Thomas Brackett Reed," and "The Immortality of Virtue." Mr. Cousins was not a frequent speaker in Congress or elsewhere. He did not excel in extemporaneous speech, nor in debate. But in the prime of his life and given an important theme and a favorable opportunity his utterances arose to the dignity of classics. As his friend W. R. Boyd has said he "possessed all the equipment, natural and acquired, of a great orator. In form, an Apollo; a voice like the tones of a great organ, 'most strangely sweet'; 'his stature molded with a perfect grace'; a mind enriched with all that the best literature of all times could give to one capable of the keenest appreciation; a memory which caught and held everything worth while; a wit as keen as that of Burns; . . . small wonder that he could charm and hold spellbound any audience, anywhere and upon almost any theme."

JOSEPH WILLIAM BETTENDORF was born in Leavenworth, Kansas, October 10, 1864, and died in Bettendorf, Iowa, May 16, 1933. The body was entombed in the Bettendorf mausoleum at Oakdale Cemetery, Davenport. His parents were Michael and Catherine (Reck) Bettendorf. The family removed to Peru, Illinois, in 1873. There Joseph W. attended school. He was an apprentice in the office of the *Peru Herald* from 1880 to 1882, was a department store clerk from 1882 to 1884, and was a machinist in the Peru Plow Company works during 1885 and 1886. In the latter year he joined with an older brother, W. P. Bettendorf, in organizing the Bettendorf Metal Wheel Company, and they began manufacturing wheels for agricultural machinery, he acting as machinist and later as superintendent. In 1893 they organized the Bettendorf Axle Company, with J. W. Bettendorf as secretary, manufacturing steel gear wagons. This developed into one of the largest foundry plants in the Middle West. The firm gradually turned to the invention and manufacturing of railway car parts, and ultimately to building complete railway cars. By 1902 the business had outgrown their plant and they removed up the river to the suburbs of Davenport and founded and built up the present town of Bettendorf. The older brother, who was the inventor of many of their devices, died in 1910 and J. W. Bet-

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