

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES U. S.,

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

August 1, 1892.

Dr. John M. Coulter,

President, etc.

University of Indiana

Bloomington, Ind.

Dear Sir:

A week since I received your letter concerning the kindly action of the Alumni and their determination to invite me to address them at the next commencement, and I waited, even at the risk of seeming to neglect you, to consider whether I could accept; but the date will conflict with plans I have projected for that time which falls in the long biennial vacation of Congress, the only opportunity that members have in two years to get away with their families for a breathing space from work.

I highly appreciate this distinguished mark of confidence from the alumni with which they honor me and would be exceedingly glad to take part in the gathering of the returning scholars of the State University and witness the evidences of its prosperity and wide influence. It is a frequent and pleasant subject of conversation with my classmate, Secretary Foster, who was valedictorian of 1855 and is still at the head of the class.

Regretting that I am unable to accept the kind invitation with which I am honored and with heartiest good wishes to Alma Mater and personally to yourself

I am,

Very sincerely yours,
Robert R. Hitt