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September 11, 1906

Miss Mary E. Downey,
Public Library,
Ottumwa, Iowa.

My dear Miss Downey:

Your letter of the 8th inst. received. The very fact that I have always endeavored to "separate the interests of the Commission, the Summer School and the Association" lead us to leave the matter of writing to the speakers in the hands of the President who is also Chairman of the Program Committee. I therefore am referring your letter to him. I wrote him last week asking him if he had heard from Miss Ahern who had been asked to present a paper, and he replied that he had not. My understanding was that Mr. Douglass sent a copy of the tentative program to you immediately after our Committee meeting August 1st and Mr. Wright's name was not included because we wished to use some Iowa trustees in addition to the special subjects, which of course called for specialists. It seems unnecessary for me to state that Mr. Wright would be very acceptable to me for one of the speakers, but I did not understand that there was any definite decision regarding him at the A. L. A. as the Committee had not yet met. My only regret is that you did not take the matter up with Mr. Douglass on seeing the tentative program, for I am sure he would be glad to adjust this. The program has not yet been completed on account of Mrs. Douglass' sickness.

I see no occasion for embarrassment on your part, as Miss Ahern has always been a popular and welcome guest at our State Association meetings and certainly understands this. I gave her a cordial invitation when I saw her at the A. L. A.

Very truly yours,
Alice S. Tyler