

more favorably known abroad, and more especially direct the attention of an intelligent class of emigrants and capitalists to our borders.

II. Such a publication would be a powerful incentive to our old pioneers and intelligent early settlers to prepare and furnish their written reminiscences.

III. The valuable manuscript narratives collected by the Society would thereby be rendered secure from all contingencies and accidents—the most of which collections once lost, could never be replaced.

IV. The library, now numbering over 2,100 volumes, and over 3,000 pamphlets, and about 70 periodicals regularly received, has been collected mainly by donations; and this publication, if creditably gotten up in its typographical appearance, would enable the Society to properly reciprocate these valuable gifts, and largely encourage others.

V. Every reasonable encouragement to the Society in its earnest efforts to build up a public reference library of works of history, statistics and general literature, would lessen the necessity of making appropriations to increase the State Library, except for that class of works relating particularly to law and legislation.

The manuscript collections of the past year have been quite large in number, and valuable in point of matter. The more important of those received, may be found appended to this report, and evince, as all must acknowledge, a gratifying evidence of the success of the Society in this department of its labors, and testify most conclusively to the interest and high appreciation cherished by the intelligent pioneers of Wisconsin in behalf of the worthy objects contemplated by our organization. In addition to these, a number of other valuable papers are promised, which may early be expected to reach our archives.

The State publications granted the Society to aid in effecting exchanges have been mostly received for the years 1854 and 1855,