

lard, Miss Caulkins, and others. "I hear on all hands," observes Mr. Bancroft, "that the immediate associates of your Society are singularly zealous and diligent in gathering together, preserving, and, as far as possible, in publishing the memorials of other days." "Your new State," writes Miss Caulkins, the faithful historian of Norwich and New London, Connecticut, "will, I trust, be more fortunate than older ones at the East. You will have records that begin with the beginning—full, accurate, and carefully preserved. We hail your Society with peculiar satisfaction as an earnest and pledge that the records of the early history of your State, of all kinds, will be preserved from destruction. You have not commenced your labors a day too soon. I fear, even now, that in some instances the Goths and Vandals have preceded you, and this or that document—here a file of old letters, and there the loose sheets of a clerk, or the note-books of a moderator, collector, or constable, have been cast into the flames, or scattered by the winds." "When again," writes the historian, Mrs. Willard, "I shall add to the record of passing events in my larger American history, I shall be benefited, especially with regard to the progress of Wisconsin, by the papers which I shall be happy occasionally to receive, or which *possibly* I may have opportunity of examining at the place of deposit; for such collections as you are so efficiently making, and at a date when everything respecting your State may be known, will make Madison a point of attraction to those who wish to learn the true history of your astonishing progress."

With such noble aims, and high encouragements, may the State Historical Society of Wisconsin never falter in its chosen career of usefulness and prosperity.

WM. R. SMITH,  
L. J. FARWELL,  
J. P. ATWOOD,  
LYMAN C. DRAPER,  
JOHN W. HUNT,  
O. M. CONOVER,  
S. H. CARPENTER,

D. J. POWERS,  
E. A. CALKINS,  
DAVID ATWOOD,  
SIMEON MILLS,  
DANIEL S. DURRIE,  
WM. A. WHITE,  
JULIUS T. CLARK,

JOHN Y. SMITH,

Madison, Jan. 1, 1856.

Executive Committee.