

On an occasion like this, it may by some be expected, that some allusion will be made to the history of the State in which the Society is located. To attempt anything like a connected history in an Annual Address, even in reference to so young a member of the Confederacy as Wisconsin, would be preposterous.— Still much may be said relating to particular periods or occurrences in that history, worthy of being preserved, and which may prove interesting to the audience I have the honor to address.

The rise, progress and prosperity of this Republic, are unparalleled in the annals of nations. Within little more than half a century, and in a period of time scarcely equal to that allotted to the ordinary life of man, the United States have emerged from a state of vassalage and dependence—defied and rejected the master that controlled and governed her, declared herself free and independent, and now forms, within her own limits, a constellation of States, each of which is equal in power and resources to many of the kingdoms of the old world. To trace the history and progress of the several States comprising this Union, would be interesting. For although the period of their existence is brief, yet it is replete with events of most thrilling interest. In this respect, Wisconsin occupies a position surpassed by no other State in the Union. It is true, much of her history is involved in obscurity, and it is in some degree blended with that of other States which are parts of what was formerly termed the *North-West Territory*, and out of which have been formed the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.

The early history of this region can only be gathered from the traditionary accounts given by the oldest inhabitants, and the exaggerated published journals and narratives of the early missionaries and other explorers of these then wild and inhospitable regions. This portion of the history of Wisconsin has been written by an abler hand than mine. The volumes lately compiled by the venerable historian of the State, have done full justice to the