

able to the people who were to be governed by these enactments. Many amusing anecdotes were told of the manner in which laws were sometimes passed by this sage body. It happened that the members of the Legislative Board were not always on the most friendly terms with each other. A law which one would approve, another would oppose from the very spirit of opposition. A gentleman of the bar, for instance, might wish to get a law passed to meet some particular emergency; and it required not a little management to get the legal number of signatures to give it force. An examination of the old statutes enacted by this body, will show that several of them which passed at the same sitting, bear only the requisite number, but not the same names. But what a change thirty years have wrought! The whipping-post and selling white men into servitude are now unknown; and with a more enlightened people, better laws have followed.

Such was Wisconsin of the past, and such is she at present. But her future destiny—what is that to be? She possesses a fertile soil—an extended territory—inland seas on the North and East, and a noble navigable river on the West; watered by pure and everlasting fountains, lakes and streams, affording water-power illimitable and unsurpassed—covered with immense forests of pine and other valuable timber—enriched with inexhaustible mines of copper, lead and iron; and above all other earthly blessings, possessing a climate as salubrious as any on the Continent. With all these advantages, is it unreasonable to predict, that Wisconsin is destined to become among the richest and most populous States in this vast Republic?

\*      \*      \*      \*      \*      \*      \*

To-day is the seventh anniversary of the organization of this Society. I was prepared to find that it had greatly increased within the past two years in its collections of books, pamphlets, newspaper files, manuscripts, narratives, and its means of usefulness. But until my present visit, I had no correct conception of its rapid progress and prosperity. It has now become creditable to the State, and richly deserves the countenance and patronage