

of all our citizens, and the fostering care of the State government. To all I most heartily commend it, not doubting but that, in this enlightened age, and among a people so generally intelligent, it will meet the encouragement, and receive the favor, which so useful an institution so justly merits.

I must beg, in conclusion, to return my grateful acknowledgments to the Society, and more particularly to the members of the Executive Committee, for the honor they have done me by inviting me to deliver their Annual Address. I must regard this as a courtesy extended to the old pioneers, by selecting one of their number for so honorable a position. I cannot but feel, that many better qualified for the task could have been selected. I have, however, done the best I could under the circumstances, and could wish that the offering were more worthy of the occasion. Without stopping to apologize for its imperfections, or to express my deep regret that the time is not permitted me for revision or correction, permit me to tender you all the anxious wish of my heart, that many a returning anniversary will continue to exhibit the same unabated interest, prosperity and usefulness that have thus far characterized the brief yet brilliant career of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin!