

We thus see in our Wisconsin public libraries over 200,000 volumes. It is questionable, if any Western State can make any such exhibit of books—the great source of intelligence, knowledge and power.

It should be added, that these statistics, except those of the Madison Libraries, and the Racine Public School, come down only to January 1st, 1857—the exceptions to September, 1857. None of these libraries, it is believed, have published catalogues, except those of the Milwaukee Young Men's Association, and the State Library—the latter published in 1852, though a new one is designed to be prepared by the librarian during the autumn.

The State Historical Society was really organized in 1849, and up to its re-organization in 1854, it only collected fifty volumes; its real prosperity may be dated from its re-organization.

It will be seen that the Sabbath School Libraries, nearly 700 in number, and established between 1843 and 1857, exhibit a very large number of volumes, and are admirably calculated to do an unspeakable amount of good. The volumes are chiefly 18mo, and average 200 pages each. Five of the libraries number 928 volumes each, being all the publications of the American Sunday School Union.

If to these statistics were added the private libraries of our State, the aggregate would be swelled immensely. The library of Bishop Henni, of Milwaukee, numbers between six and seven thousand volumes; Lyman C. Draper's Collection on Western History, 1500 volumes; Dr. John W. Hunt's Geographical and Statistical Collection, 300; D. Y. Kilgore's Educational Collection, 600; and many other private collections, choice and valuable, might be enumerated.