

people. To the rising generation, must we especially look with hope and confidence. Upon them, to a great extent, rests the responsibility—and upon their conduct as citizens and statesmen, must the future greatness and respectability of the State be dependent. Wisconsin is possessed of every requisite to make her rich, populous and powerful; and to-day she presents an appearance of prosperity, never before witnessed in one so young.

Unwise legislation—a reckless system of expenditure of public money, and peculation by officials—have, it is true, given us a bad reputation abroad, and over-trading and speculation cramped the people and caused a stagnation in trade; but these are evils of but a temporary nature—and, it is to be hoped, will soon work out their remedy, and serve as warnings for the future. Viewing the present condition of Wisconsin, and considering that, but a few years since she had not even a “habitation or a name” in the American constellation—possessing, as she does, a rich soil—a salubrious climate—an inland sea upon her border—magnificent navigable streams traversing her entire length and breadth—her forests of choice timber—her minerals and ores—and with a population, intelligent, moral and energetic—what may we not anticipate for her future, when she shall have attained the summit of greatness, the second stage of her political existence? It will be years before she will have reached the strength and vigor of her maturity. When attained, may she long pursue the “even tenor” of her way—and may many generations pass, before the historian shall indite the “History of her Decline!”