

with our limited resources. The Astor Library has an annual income, from its invested funds, of over \$27,000. The Chicago public library expends nearly \$50,000 a year—of which \$20,000 is for books; \$16,500 for salaries; and \$3,500 for binding and repairing books; while the Boston Public Library expends altogether some \$60,000 annually.

For our Library not to exceed \$3,700 is yearly expended for books; \$4,600 for salaries; and some \$800 for binding. Few reference libraries in the country have more readers than ours—numbering many thousands annually. Those only who watch and observe how many works are constantly inquired for, which our Library does not possess, can realize to some extent, that while it is rendering untold benefits to our people, yet how much *more good* it could accomplish, if it enjoyed liberal endowments and larger purchasing resources.

It is to be hoped, that at no distant day we may have a fitting Library Hall for our present and prospective literary treasures; and that not a few of our wealthy and liberal-hearted citizens will, with wise forethought, bestow a generous portion of their means upon our Society, where it may unceasingly perform its noble mission of inculcating knowledge among our people.

If incentives are needed for such generosity, and the fostering of such an institution, it may be found in the following disinterested notice from the Louisville *Monthly Magazine*, for June, 1879:

“The State Historical Society of Wisconsin is a good example of what can be done by systematic, persevering work in the establishment of a Library. It presents imposing strength. It has overcome all obstacles, and can now be safely assured of its prosperity as long as the State of Wisconsin exists. Its enemies in its infancy can now recognize it as one of the most potent agencies that have made Wisconsin a great State in—how few years! We unhesitatingly declare it a greater honor to have been identified in promoting the welfare of such a Society than any to be obtained in political life. All honor to Wisconsin!”

And, may we not be permitted to add—*all honor and gratitude to our Society's benefactors!*