

ness of his utterance. Disdaining the lighter graces of rhetoric, his speeches did not sparkle with wit nor glow with sentiment, but they bristled with facts; if he did not captivate by his style, he compelled assent by his reasoning; and when he had arranged his facts and constructed his argument, his conclusion followed with almost irresistible force. Devoting himself to commerce and to politics, he attained eminent success in each, and secured the highest rewards of both."

For several years past, General Washburn has served as president of the State Historical Society, in which he has ever taken a lively interest, and to which he has made many liberal and valuable contributions. His deep interest in the affairs of the Society cannot better be illustrated, than by a brief quotation from his own language. During the last year, the secretary endeavored to arouse an interest to aid in securing a new building in which to better accommodate the large and rapidly increasing demands of the Society for room. General Washburn was then in Europe, but his views on this subject were asked, and in response to a letter from Mr. Draper, he wrote:

I read your letter with a great deal of interest and sincere approval. Though I am told by my physicians that I must stop writing, or even thinking, yet I will bid them defiance so far as to say to you, that I approve of every word you say. The State is justly proud of the Historical Society, and to you, especially, and to your associate, Mr. Durrie, is due the honor of its being what it is. It has grown to such proportions, that there is little opportunity for its enlargement without the State's co-operation. The room now occupied is wanted for other purposes. Wisconsin is a great and prosperous State—rapidly increasing in wealth and importance. The State is able to do whatever ought to be done to promote the public welfare. I do not see how the legislature can withhold a proper appropriation for a building for the Society. No one can forecast the future, or tell to what proportions your collection may grow. It certainly will exceed the most sanguine anticipations of any; and I trust you will lay out for the far-off future.

Mr. Washburn was a philanthropist, as has been shown in many acts, and as such, the people will ever remember him with great respect. In the erection and gift to the State University, of the astronomical observatory, fully equipped with the best apparatus known to the world, he has reared a monument more enduring than stone or brass, and one that will cause his name to be mentioned with the highest respect and veneration for the