

Gen. W. R. Smith, the latter approved the general scope of the document, but strenuously objected to asking for so large an appropriation as five hundred dollars a year—two hundred, he thought, was as much as should be asked for; that by asking for five hundred, we should defeat the whole object, and get nothing. The Secretary replied, that he thought the Legislature would as readily grant five hundred as two hundred for such a purpose; that little could be accomplished with two hundred dollars, but with five hundred, we could make a beginning, and he was willing the wisdom of the appropriation should be judged by its results. While the old General shook his head in doubt, the memorial was signed by the committee, and a few others—was presented to the Assembly by Judge Orton, then the Madison representative, who had it referred to the committee on State affairs, of which Hon. Sam. Hale, of Kenosha, was chairman. At Judge Orton's suggestion, Judge Hale and his committee spent a Saturday afternoon with the Secretary, at his private library, who entertained them with an exhibition of his private collections on Western history; and the committee concluded—we hope wisely—that if a single individual could accomplish so much, what might not the associated effort of a whole State, like Wisconsin, effect? They unanimously recommended the passage of an act in accordance with the prayer of the memorialists—and, with the friendly attention of Judge Orton in the Assembly, and Beriah Brown's efforts among the Senators, the bill passed without any material opposition. This was the beginning of friendly legislative action in the Society's behalf, which has since led Hon. Richard S. Field of New Jersey, to point to its success as the result of the "enlightened liberality of the Legislature of Wisconsin."

At the re-organization of the Society, in January, 1854, Dr. Hunt was chosen Librarian, and transferred the Society's bookcase from the Executive Room to the office of the Secretary of State, where it remained that year; though long before the year closed, it was crowded with additions to the Library, and