

ication of our new rooms, on the 24th of January last, when President LAPHAM and ex-Gov. SALOMON delivered appropriate addresses, proved but a precursor of the steady interest manifested in the Library and Collections during the entire year. While in our old rooms, the visitors, from the data kept by the Librarian, numbered ten to twelve thousand annually; and, during the past year the number could scarcely have been less than fifteen or twenty thousand. The unflagging interest thus manifested is the best evidence of the worth and usefulness of the Society; and this will be better appreciated, when it is contrasted with comparatively few visitors to similar institutions in some of the older States. When your Secretary visited one of them, where some forty thousand dollars had been expended in providing a fine library building, he asked the custodian of the attractive rooms and valuable collection, how many visitors, during the year, honored themselves and the library with their presence. The reply was "about one hundred and fifty."

Publication of Transactions

Another event of no small importance to the usefulness and growth of the Society, occurring the past year, deserves special notice—the authorization by the Legislature of the recommencement of the publication of our Reports and Collections, on good paper; not a volume a year as formerly, but a hundred and fifty pages, so that three successive yearly installments will serve to form a full volume. By the exercise of careful scrutiny in the admission of none but really valuable historical papers, we shall be able to publish much useful information pertaining to the early settlement and progressive improvement of Wisconsin, and the worthy part our State and people have taken in the late war for the preservation of the Union. The regular publication of our Collections, commencing with the present year, will tend to stimulate, we may fondly hope, the contribution of much valuable historic matter which would otherwise be finally buried in the grave with