

still resides in the State, has been a member of the Assembly, was a popular chaplain in the army during the Rebellion, and is an influential clergyman in the Universalist denomination.

Hon Lyman C. Draper, of Madison, was Superintendent in the years 1858-59. He has been for many years the efficient Secretary of the State Historical Society. He procured, during his term, the passage of an excellent law for establishing Town School Libraries. He wrote largely upon this subject in his reports, and awakened much interest in it in different parts of the State. After a fund of \$88,784.78 had accumulated for the benefit of these libraries, the law was very unwisely repealed in 1861, and the money transferred to the school and the general funds. It is due to this enterprise, that this money should be refunded by the State, and this law revived.*

Prof. J. L. Pickard, of Platteville, succeeded Mr. Draper. He was three times elected to the office, and resigned during the first year of his third term. He had taught in other States, had acted as the popular principal of the Platteville Academy for fourteen years, and had taken a deep interest in the educational affairs of the State. His administration was vigorous and successful. Besides securing the establishment of the office of County Superintendents, as has already been noticed, he made special efforts to enlarge school districts by the consolidation of smaller ones, and to inspire the teachers with a greater interest in their work.

Col. J. G. McMynn was the next Superintendent by appointment, and subsequently by election. Chiefly by his exertions, the first graded schools in the State were organized at Kenosha and Racine, and became widely known; and the

*There was probably no law of its importance ever more fully discussed, or passed with greater unanimity, by any Legislative body, than the Township Library Law of 1859—creating a Library Fund by setting apart for that purpose one-tenth of the School Fund income, and imposing one-tenth of a mill tax on the taxable property of the State. But the great war tornado of 1861 burst upon us, and the Legislature, without due reflection, we fear, repealed the Library Law, when no single petition had ever come up from the people asking for such action; and that portion of the accrued Library Fund which had come from the School Fund, was restored to that source, and the remainder was placed in the General Fund, to aid, as was proclaimed at the time, in equipping our first regiments for the war. Now that the war is over, and most of the State war expenses have been refunded by the General Government, it is due to the noble cause of popular education, that the Township Library Law be restored, or a new one enacted, carrying into effect the beneficent purposes contemplated by the friends of education throughout the State.