

Annual Report of the Executive Committee

The first five years of the Society's existence was merely a nominal one. From its re-organization in January, 1854, its real efficiency dates. After twelve years' efforts and accumulations, the Society removed into our present spacious apartments, appropriately fitted up for its occupancy in the new capitol building; having, during that period, issued four volumes of *Collections*, and gathered a Library of over twenty-one thousand volumes and pamphlets—exhibiting an annual increase of a little short of eighteen hundred volumes and pamphlets. During the eleven years since our removal into these comfortable quarters, the average annual increase has been four thousand, four hundred and forty-two books and pamphlets—making the present strength of the Library over seventy thousand volumes and pamphlets. Three additional volumes of *Collections* have, within this period, been issued, and three volumes of *Catalogues* of the Library.

In a new State like ours, with but few men of wealth to foster and endow such institutions, this growth will be regarded as alike creditable to the management of the Society, and the enlightened liberality of the legislature of the State, well seconded by the successive governors, and other State officers. This recognition of State aid and fostering care is justly due to the people of Wisconsin and their legislative and executive representatives, unflinchingly extended to the Society through every period, in adversity as well as in prosperity. There is nowhere on record an

¹ Submitted January 2, 1877.