

ciety is accomplishing; in gathering and disseminating the history of Wisconsin; in collecting and preserving our current newspaper files; furnishing resources for investigators in our varied departments of learning; and in aiding the students of our State University in their preliminary training for spheres of future trust and usefulness.

Such an institution, whose opportunities for extending its beneficent labors are constantly on the increase, needs enlarged facilities. A new building is one of its wants, which, with a return of general prosperity, will undoubtedly be provided, because its necessity and utility are alike so obvious; while another equally important matter—the binding fund—should be nurtured by every means we can devise—a fund that should be regarded as the result of the free-will offerings of the Society's friends within and beyond the limits of Wisconsin.

Has not the Society friends who will remember it with generous benefactions? John Jacob Astor and his son devoted hundreds of thousands of dollars to the founding of a public library; and their example is being followed by James Lenox, a gentleman of New York City, of large benevolence. The late George Peabody gave, altogether, a million and four hundred thousand dollars to found an institute of science, literature, and the fine arts, in Baltimore; and two hundred and twenty thousand dollars to establish an institute, lyceum and library in his native town of Danvers, Massachusetts. The late Hon. Samuel Appleton bequeathed ten thousand dollars to the Massachusetts Historical Society, and Mr. Peabody as much more; Elliott Cresson that amount to the Pennsylvania Historical Society; and the late Henry D. Gilpin considerably more for the benefit of the Pennsylvania and Chicago historical societies. Within a few months, the late F. C. T. Smith bequeathed ten thousand dollars to the New Hampshire Historical Society. Hon. Stephen Salisbury donated five thousand dollars to the American Antiquarian Society for binding purposes alone.

We have been ten years trying to establish a binding fund for our Society, and it has not yet reached five thousand dollars—not half what it should be, to enable its income to meet all the wants