

of the Society in this direction. Let us hope that you, men of Wisconsin, who are in comfortable circumstances, will yet do something worthy to perpetuate your names and memories, by providing liberal donations and bequests to our Society. It will deservedly secure you a reputation more enduring than brass or marble, and far more useful to humanity than all the wealth you could transmit to your offspring—for wealth thus bestowed, oftener proves a curse than a blessing.

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### Twenty-fourth Annual Report<sup>1</sup>

The past year has, by purchases, gifts and exchanges, brought its accustomed additions to the Library. Books, pamphlets and periodicals have been multiplied, the portrait gallery enriched, the cabinet and prehistoric collection largely increased, and new augmentations made to the manuscript stores of our Wisconsin history.

#### Financial Condition—Binding Fund

The receipts of the year into the general fund, as shown by the Treasurer's report, including the small balance of the previous year, have been \$5,014.25; and the disbursements, \$4,997.81, leaving an unexpended balance of \$16.44.

During the year, the binding fund has received but four donations—\$50 from Hon. Andrew Proudfit, the balance of a pledge of one hundred dollars to this fund; \$20 from Rev. R. M. Hodges, D. D., one of our honorary vice-presidents, being the sixth annual contribution of that amount; \$20 from "A Friend;" and \$5 from Hon. Philo White; duplicate books and pamphlets sold, \$272.95; accrued interest, \$351.45; annual membership dues, net, \$75.70; thus showing an addition of \$795.10, and making the total present amount of this important fund, \$5,595.51.

The promised gift of six hundred and forty acres of Texas land, for the benefit of this fund, by the late Hon. John Catlin, has recently been kindly conveyed to the Society by Mrs. Catlin and

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<sup>1</sup> Submitted January 2, 1878.