

obtaining personal memoirs from your pioneers, is precisely that which promises to secure you the most valuable materials for posterity. Fifty years hence none of this class will be living to answer these questions, and the information will then have an intense value."

"On more than one occasion within the year past," writes Dr. Wills DeHass, the well-known archæologist, "have I heard the example of the Wisconsin Historical Society cited and commended. At New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Richmond, and other points, I have heard the progress of your Society in language most complimentary to all concerned. You have, indeed, accomplished wonders. *Excelsior* is justly your motto."

"I would utter my feeble voice of encouragement," wrote the late Rev. Dr. Francis L. Hawks, "and say, go on; you are doing bravely, as I learn from your *Annual Reports*, which have duly reached me; and I wish every State had the good sense and liberality which Wisconsin has shown in making your Society an annual appropriation."

"Most gladly do I observe the spirit with which your young Society proceeds," writes the venerable historian, Hon. James Savage, of Boston, "and I feel confident that a coming generation will examine your volumes of *Reports and Collections*, even with a higher satisfaction than has been felt by me."

"Yours is a very active and vigorous young Society," writes the historian, Parkman. "The value of your Society's *Collections*, under the capable editorship," observes Dr. John Gilmory Shea, "can only be appreciated by those who, like myself, have to use them in elucidating early history. That test shows their real importance and worth, which may not appear to any ordinary reader."

"Inspired with zeal by the efforts and examples of your Society," writes Hon. C. I. Walker, of Detroit, "we are endeavoring to awaken attention to our early history, and to collect and preserve such materials of that history as are still within our reach;" and Hon. C. C. Trowbridge, also of Detroit, and who accompanied Gen. Cass in his Wisconsin exploration nearly fifty-eight years ago, adds: "I am filled with admiration when I look at the