

The late Charlotte Harris, of Boston, left a bequest of \$10,000, besides her private collection of books, to the Charlestown, Mass., Library; and \$2,000 to the Boston Athenæum.

John Gardner bequeathed \$5,000 to the free public library of Malden, Mass.; and Mrs. Prof. William Larned the same amount to Yale College Library.

These few instances of recent gifts and bequests to American public libraries, taken almost at random, evince the growing interest and unmistakable recognition on the part of thoughtful men and women in these institutions as permanent and powerful instrumentalities in supplementing and promoting the education of the people.

Our Historical Society has not yet been the recipient of any large pecuniary benefactions. Wisconsin is yet a comparatively new State; and, it is to be anxiously hoped, that the Society may, at no distant period, be generously remembered by its wealthy and liberal-hearted people. But until then, its reasonable support can be best maintained by the State.

When Prussia was reduced to the greatest extremity by the wars of the first Napoleon—plundered of her arsenals, her coffers, and her museums by her relentless conquerors—suffering from heavy pecuniary exactions, robbed, even, of the revenue for the endowment of schools—then, in the midst of these great public distresses, the Prussian ladies stripped themselves of their jewels and ornaments, sending them to the royal treasury, and receiving cast-iron ones in return, bearing the inscription, "*I give gold for iron.*" This state of things lasted for half a dozen years, the king and public functionaries declaring that they were "convinced that liberations from extraordinary calamities is fruitless, and only to be effected by a thorough improvement of the people's education." "It was during these unparalleled sacrifices that Prussia," says Bancroft, "in the hour of its sufferings and its greatest calamities, renovated its existence partly by the establishment of schools."

The people of Wisconsin, who have passed through the trials and vicissitudes attendant upon the settlement of a new country, and patiently suffered from the self-denials and sacrifices of war, will not be apt to repudiate their own intellectual and humanita-