

pose of the *Collections*, save so far as it is a report of the Society's own considerable collection of these autographs. It remains, however, the standard monograph on the subject.

In accordance with the custom then in vogue, the volume contains memorial sketches of two prominent deceased members—Andrew Proudfit and Dr. O. M. Conover—and the Editor's resumé of Wisconsin necrology for 1879–82. Commencing with the year 1887, the annual volume of *Proceedings* was instituted, and thereafter such matters were consigned to this publication, leaving for the biennial *Collections* only documentary and monographic material. In volume xvi of the latter was inaugurated the plan of reserving this series for documentary materials for Western (more specifically Wisconsin) history, and the *Proceedings* for annual reports and for narratives, monographs, and other secondary sources. In the *Proceedings* for 1896 the custom was resumed, after a hiatus of fourteen years, of publishing outline sketches of prominent Wisconsin pioneers who had died during the year; this annual recital was continued through the *Proceedings* for 1905, but was then suspended, for the reason that practically all of the Territorial pioneers have now left us. We continue, however, to preserve in the Library, in form convenient for reference, and properly-indexed, newspaper obituaries of all prominent citizens of the State.

In closing this reprint edition of the ten volumes of *Collections* published under the editorship of Dr. Draper, the present Editor can but express his deep sense of satisfaction at being the agency through which that treasure-house of Western historical material has been given a new lease of existence. The official store of the original editions had long since become exhausted, and several of the volumes were rarities bringing high prices in the book market. Public and school libraries throughout the Commonwealth, several times more numerous than twenty years ago, were much in need of complete sets of *Collections* for the use of the constantly increasing body of students of Wisconsin history, yet but few such sets were in existence. It was therefore a matter for general congratulation that the