

less familiar to you all. By the close of the first year of his management, Secretary Draper had accumulated for the library a thousand books and a thousand pamphlets. In August, 1855, the Society—its treasures having heretofore been shown in the office of the secretary of state—moved into quarters in the basement of the Baptist church, still standing on Carroll street. On the first of January following, Daniel S. Durrie was chosen librarian, and still holds the position after thirty-six years of efficient service; as the secretary's lieutenant throughout this long period, we must not forget that to him, too, belongs no small measure of praise in any record of our institution. In January, 1866, having outgrown its old quarters in the church, the Society—now with its museum and art gallery as well as library—was given rooms in the then new south wing of the capitol. In December, 1884, again pressed for space, we moved into the present south transverse wing, where we occupy three of the spacious floors; and the time is not far distant when our growing needs will necessitate another removal—then, we trust, into our own fire proof building.

During the years 1858 and 1859, Secretary Draper served as state superintendent of public instruction. He was quite as efficient in this role as in that of antiquarian collector. He was the originator of a bill establishing township libraries, and almost unaided secured its passage by the legislature in 1859. The people of the state raised in the first year of the Draper law a library fund of \$88,784.78 to be expended for the several towns by a state library board; but in 1861, when the civil war broke out, and the resources of the commonwealth were taxed to the utmost to support its troops at the front, the well-digested library law was repealed and the money already accumulated transferred to other funds before a book could be purchased or the proposed board organized. It was not until 1887—twenty-eight years after—that an act was again passed by the Wisconsin legislature, establishing township libraries for the education of rural communities.

It may truly be said of State Superintendent Draper that