

## A RARE WISCONSIN BOOK.

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BY THEODORE LEE COLE.

When beginning my study of the bibliography of American statute laws, some years ago, my attention was attracted by the resolution passed by the Wisconsin legislature, January 19, 1838, directing "That the following entitled acts selected from those now in force in this Territory, be printed and published as an appendix to the pamphlet laws of the present session," and giving the titles thereof, a hundred and twenty-five in number.<sup>1</sup> There being no appendix of any kind to the current volume of the laws of that session, it occurred to me that possibly this publication had been made in some other form. I carefully examined all those libraries, public and private, both within the state and elsewhere, likely to contain it. I also inquired, in person or by letter, of everyone likely to have, or to know of, such appendix; but so far from finding it, I could not find any one who had even heard of it. In the meantime I had been searching the journals and laws of the legislature, and discovered there so interesting a thread of legislative history, in the matter of early official printing, and printers, in Wisconsin, that I venture to give some account of it.

The second session of the legislative assembly of the Territory of Wisconsin was held at Burlington (now in Iowa), from November, 1837, to January, 1838, and is known as the "Winter session of 1837-38." On December 29, 1837, a joint committee was appointed—Messrs. Foley, Smith, and Sweet of the council, and Shoales, Quigley, and Chance of the house—to make a selection for publication, of laws

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<sup>1</sup> *Acts of Legis. of Wis.*, winter session of 1837-38 (Burlington, Iowa, 1838), p. 329. Reprint thereof (1867), p. 529.