

founders of the Society. In full knowledge of the quality of his friend's labors, he urged upon his associates the importance of attracting such a specialist to Madison. Harlow S. Orton, afterwards a member of the Wisconsin supreme court, together with Governor Farwell and others, heartily co-operated with Judge Larabee, and about the middle of October, 1852, Draper arrived in Madison. His patron Remsen had died the spring before, and the following year Draper married the widow, who was also his cousin.<sup>1</sup> The historian was then thirty-seven years of age, full of vigor and push, kindly of disposition, persuasive in argument, devoted to his life-task of collecting, self-denying in the cause, and of unimpeachable character.

For various reasons it was the 18th of January, 1854, before the Society was thoroughly reorganized, and Draper, as corresponding secretary, made its executive officer. Then for the first time the institution began to move. The new secretary entered with joyous enthusiasm upon the undertaking of accumulating books for the library, relics and curiosities for the museum, portraits of pioneers for the gallery, and documents for publication in the *Wisconsin Historical Collections*. His administration opened with a library of but fifty volumes contained in a small case with glass doors, that is today exhibited in the museum as a suggestive relic. The Society's library, now housed in one of the most beautiful library buildings in America, has expanded to over two hundred and fifty thousand volumes, and rich stores of pamphlets and manuscripts; its museum and art gallery annually attract sixty thousand visitors; its possessions are probably marketable at a million and a half dollars, and in usefulness to the people of this State are beyond price. But the story of the Society's remarkable progress is familiar, and need not here be dwelt upon.<sup>2</sup> By the

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<sup>1</sup>On the 23d of May, 1888, Draper lost this, his first wife, whose last years were those of a chronic invalid, a fact which did much to hamper him in his literary work. On the 10th of October, 1889, at Cheyenne, Wyoming, he married Mrs. Catherine T. Hoyt, of that place, who survived him about a year.

<sup>2</sup>See *The State Historical Society of Wisconsin: Memorial Volume* (Madison, 1901), pp. 95-109.