

and honor, did not understand what duplicity meant, and was sympathetic to a fault.

If not a great man, he was to his generation an eminently useful one. He was perhaps the most successful of all collectors of material for American border history; and it will ever be a source of deep regret to historical students that his unfortunate temperament as a writer, combined with the burden of his duties in behalf of this Society, prevented him from giving to the world that important series of biographies for which he so eagerly planned two-thirds of a century ago. He generously left to us his materials—so much bricks and stone, ready for the aspiring architects of the future. These will always be of incalculable value to original workers in many branches of Western history; yet it would have been far better if Dr. Draper, who best knew the relative value of the documents and notes he had so laboriously collected, could have himself interpreted his material.

But even had Dr. Draper never been a collector of border lore, never entertained ambitions in a broader field, his work for this Society has of itself been sufficient to earn for him the lasting gratitude of the people of Wisconsin, and of all American historical students. The Society's library, which he practically founded and so successfully managed and purveyed for through a third of a century—and even fought for, in many a day when its future looked dark indeed—will remain an enduring monument to his tireless energy as a collector of Americana; while these first ten volumes of *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, which we are now reprinting, attest to his quality as an editor of material for Western history. Thus measured, the life of this gentle scholar, of noble purpose, of wondrous zeal and self-denial in our cause, was successful in a high degree.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>For a late treatment of Draper's life and work, see chapter, "The Draper Manuscripts," in the present writer's *How George Rogers Clark Won the Northwest, and other Essays in Western History* (Chicago: A. C. McClurg, 1903), pp. 335-359.