THE NEW CAPITOL.

Very soon after the organization of the State Government, the Capitol became inadequate to the proper accommodation of the several departments which the organization brought into being, and the business of which rapidly increased with the growth of the State. Still, by renting some rooms in other buildings, it was made to answer the purpose for ten years after Wisconsin became a State.

In 1857 it became apparent that a new capitol must be built without further delay, and this necessity gave rise to a proposition, in the legislature of that year to remove the seat of government from Madison to some other point. Whether there was any real danger of the success of the proposition or not, the people of Madison became alarmed and voted to donate to the State $50,000, in City bonds, to aid in the construction of a new capitol upon the old site.

This proposition was accepted by the legislature and by an act, approved February 28th, 1857, the Governor and Secretary of State were authorized to adopt a plan and contract for the erection of the east wing of the building. The plan was drawn by Messrs. KUTZBOCK & DONNELL, and the contract for the east wing was let to A. A. McDONNELL, and first occupied by the Assembly in 1859. Messrs. KUTZBOCK & DONNELL were appointed Architects.

By an act, approved March 9th, 1861, the construction of the West wing was authorized, under the direction of the State officers, and the contract was awarded to Messrs. HARVEY & MOXLEY. At the session of 1863, the Assembly (according to the design) took possession of the West wing and the Senate of the East wing.
By act of March 26, 1863, the erection of the North wing and the laying of the foundation of the South wing, and of the Rotunda, were provided for and the North wing was first occupied the winter following.

By act of April 2d, 1864, provision was made for the completion of the South wing and raising the walls of the Rotunda to the roof of the wings. The South wing was first occupied by the State Historical Society, in January, 1866.

The erection of the Dome and finishing the Rotunda only remain to complete the structure, and this will probably be done the present year.

The East and West wings were built on either side of the old capitol, which was not removed until these two wings were ready for use, and the occupancy of the building has never been interrupted. For the North and South wings, Mr. J. Livsey, Harvey, Moxley and Moulton, were severally contractors upon different parts of the work.

The diameter of the structure from North to South, is 250 feet, and from East to West, 275 feet. Its extreme height, according to the design, will be 221 feet. It is built in the Corinthian order of architecture, and though plain in its exterior finish for that order of architecture, its internal finish is more elaborate, presenting an appearance of elegance and comfort, in broad contrast with the the smooth, dripping stone surfaces and cavern-like appearance of the interior of the Capitol, at Nashville, Tenn. The building has not the massive quality which should characterize public buildings of this description, and will hardly be able to sing the song of a thousand years. But this defect was, in a great measure, at least, unavoidable from the absence of massive building material within availa-
ble distance. Still the new Capitol will long remain a credit to the State and the crowning ornament of the most beautiful town in the United States.

**THE MADISON PRESS.**

The following paragraphs are extracted from an interesting historic sketch of the Dane County Press, written by Hon. DAVID ATWOOD, of the *State Journal*, and published in the proceedings of the Wisconsin Editorial Convention, of 1865. The notices of the subsequent career of the ex-members of the Madison Press, are omitted, and the names of some of the less successful enterprises are barely mentioned—these being the only respects in which the sketch seems to admit of condensation.

**WISCONSIN ENQUIRER.**

"This was the first paper established in Madison, and the first number made its appearance on the 8th of November, 1838. JOSIAH A. NOONAN was the editor and proprietor. It was a six column weekly, and commenced its career full of spirit and energy. In the introductory I find the following paragraph:

"With party politics we shall not for the present take any very active part, believing that there is nothing in the situation of the Territory that makes it necessary for the newspapers in it now, to burden their columns with labored discussions of the common political questions of the day. Whenever we do enter the political arena, however, we shall be found advocating the principles and measures of the Democratic party."

"The paper was not long free from politics. The greatest strife, however, was of a local nature. Parties at this day, had not become fully organized."