

29 Apr 1906, cont'd

worn in the reference room. Men and women are constantly coming here in search of an ancestor. One asked, "I want to consult a Genealogy." "Which one, Savage's?" "Oh, no; white men."

In addition to his work of general supervision of the State Library, Mr. Kennedy has undertaken the labor of editing the Journals of the Virginia House of Burgesses. One volume has appeared, and has been pronounced by critics to be the leading historical work of the year. Its appearance is elegant and fitting. Other volumes will follow, until the whole series of twenty volumes is complete. A large number of transcripts made for this library from records of colonial history, in the British Museum have just arrived and are extremely interesting. In time, it is believed the archives of the Commonwealth shall be complete.

When we consider the lapse of time, the waste of ignorance and the calamities of war, it is our treasures rather than our losses that surprise us.

The preservation of literature through libraries has been one of the signal blessings which civilization has brought to mankind.

Three and a half centuries ago, in France, we find an ordinance, the first of its kind, requiring a copy of each work printed to be deposited in the Royal Library, with the distinct object of preserving to posterity all the literature of the country. This ordinance has occurred for the National Library at Paris the proud distinction of having the largest collection of books in the world.

Since 1850 the United States has had the law requiring a copy of every book published and copyrighted to be preserved in our National Library. Only in 1870 did Librarian Spafford succeed in securing the enactment of the statute which means much to American history and literature. This law makes the national librarian the sole registrar of copyrights and requires that two copies of every copyright book or article, shall be deposited in the National Library, one for use and one for storing away among the archives. Had such a law existed from the founding of the library, its collection would now represent American literature, science and art in a complete manner.

Lynchburg News

6 May 1906

p 5 c 3

BOOKS ON THE GO.

USES AND ADVANTAGES OF TRAVELLING LIBRARIES.

How the System is Operated Under State Auspices in Virginia—Extension Planned Under the Recent Act of the Legislature.

Verses in a Library.

Give me that book whose power is such

That I forget the north wind's touch.

Give me that book that brings to me
Forgetfulness of what I be.

Give me that book that takes my life
In seeming far from all its strife.

Give me that book wherein each page
Destroys my sense of creeping age.

J. K. BANGS.

It is a long step from the "chained book" to the travelling library. Yet within a few weeks reading we have seen how the step has been made. Many of us have seen the real chained books in old museums, while most of us have seen only the pictures of them. In the last number of the Library Journal is a photograph of a book wagon and outfit, by which books are distributed through country communities. The free town library is largely a growth of the last fifty years, while the travelling library is a development of the last decade. The rivalry of cities, the belief in the necessity of free libraries and the feeling that public libraries are the most enduring memorials, all unite to secure for the city libraries great private and public gifts. State libraries and State library commissions are now determined that the rural communities shall enjoy library privileges, and for the past ten years they have been gradually establishing the travelling library system. Women's clubs, patriotic societies, and individuals all over the United States have

cont'd