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more thoroughly one of us than he is. The writer is glad he is as young as he is, and forgives him for the accident of being a West Virginian.

These two young men are patriots of a high order, and the work they are doing for the Commonwealth cannot be measured. They possess determination and poise, and the faculty for getting things done, qualities not always found in combination with lofty ideals and fine theories.

In the next article will be shown how the State Library is fulfilling the highest requirements of a State library, and at the same time, answering the purposes of a free reference library and reading room for the people of Richmond. Richmond has no free loan library.

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THE STATE LIBRARY

ITS FORMER QUARTERS IN CAPITOL, AND PRESENT HOME.

It is Richmond's Only Free Reference Library—An Index of the Librarian's Hopes—Some of His Larger Undertakings.

BY MRS. W. M. STROTHER.

For a great many years the library was in the Capitol, in the space now occupied by the Governor's offices. In 1892 the Assembly appropriated a sum of money for the building of a library edifice in the Capitol Square, and in the spring of 1895 it was completed and furnished at a cost to the State of a little more than \$240,000. It is built of cream brick, three stories high, with a deep gallery or portico in front. It presents a fine appearance, in keeping with the architecture of the Capitol. It is three stories high, the first and second stories being used for State offices.

Though the building is comparatively new, it appears as old externally and internally as any of the landmarks of Capitol Square, except as to the third floor, which is wholly devoted to the purposes of the State Library. Here everything is fresh and immaculately clean, light, airy, well ventilated and decidedly inviting. Here, if anywhere, you are expected and invited to give trouble by asking questions, and you are made to feel that the trouble is pleasure to the attendants. Service is the watchword. The portrait gallery is a veritable "Valhalla of the brave." Rare manuscripts and original letters are arranged in museum cases in most instructive fashion.

The crowded space prevents a strictly historic or chronological grouping of portraits and statuary. The practical uses of the modern library need a building planned from the inside dictated by convenience and experience. Everything that a librarian's ingenuity can devise, is being done by the present administration to make this a model of convenience for home people, and a creditable show-place for the many strangers in Richmond, who are drawn to the library by the attractive descriptions of it in the guide books.

A Public Library is always one of the features of a town or city. A stranger glances at the card catalogues, the bulletins, the magazine cases, the newspaper racks, takes in the titles of a few of the leading reference books in the reading room, stands for a moment looking through the glass doors into the stock room, overhears some of the questions asked of the attendant, and goes away with an accurate knowledge of the community, its educational, literary and industrial characteristics. The Virginia State Library indexes the librarian's hopes, not the realizations.

(In the presence of so much that is uplifting and refining, do we need the severe moral lesson imposed on us of the presence of the convict-janitor in his soiled stripes of most unpleasant suggestion? There are book thieves, we know, but very few. And should the many suffer for the few who really need this warning? This custom, so far as the writer can ascertain, of using the wretched negro convicts for indoor service, is

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