

great deficiency in many branches of learning, and which should be supplied—to render it worthy of the State, as its public library.

The Virginia State Library, instituted in 1827, had in 1828, ch. 8. page 9, appropriated \$6,000 for its augmentation, and in 1829, ch. 8. page 11, a further appropriation of \$4,000, to which acts I beg leave to refer you, as worthy of your consideration, containing as they do, liberal and effective measures for the bettering the condition and improvement of public libraries.

The expediency of a general authority to the Executive to exchange our reports for those of the other states, is respectfully suggested. Thus adding to our general stock of information, without any additional expense; always having extra copies of such works, over and above those reserved for our own purposes of legislation.

I would respectfully call the attention of the joint committee, particularly to Wilson's and Audubon's Ornithology; these works are monuments of genius, and well do they merit the patronage of their fellow-citizens, many of whom are willing, but few individuals are able to encourage them, in consequence of the apparently high cost of these works—but not dear, when considered, as they should be, proud specimens of American skill and talent. These magnificent national works are surpassed by none of their kind, works that shed a lustre on American literature and enterprize, and which should meet with the patronage of the national and state governments—none of whose public libraries, should be without them.

All the unbound laws of the several states have been bound, by order of the Executive, as requested by resolution No. 18. passed at December session, 1830.

The state of New York has enriched the library by the presentation of a beautifully executed Map of that state, accompanied with a splendid Atlas, containing a map of each county; also, three sets of her revised laws, three volumes each set.

Although the library may be considered in its infancy, not having existed more than four years; yet it has assumed a position at once pleasing and respectable. And yet, there are many deficiencies which your experience and judgment will suggest should be filled up, at as early a period as may be practicable.

I have the honor to be Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant.

D. RIDGELY, *Librarian.*