

Burns' works in this city. It is owned by William R. Smith, the superintendent of the Botanical Gardens, and it is said to be one of the finest Burns collections in the world. I have understood that he expects to give it to the Masonic library of Washington, but I have written him that he should give it to the National library. Why should not some rich man buy a collection of this kind and give it to the library. Take some of our millionaires, such as John Mackey, Rockefeller and others. What better monument could they leave for themselves than a big collection of some kind to be known in the library as their collection, and to be always called by their name? I would like to see national pride aroused in the library. It is a library for the people, and we hope to make it so accessible that it will be at the command of every one who comes to Washington.

"Is not Washington already one of the best literary centers of the Union?"

"Yes, it is," was the reply. "It is fast becoming the seat of great collections. The National Library is only one of a number. There should be a general catalogue published of all the books in Washington, stating where they may be found. We have here what is said to be the best medical library of the world. This is known as the library of the Army and Medical Museum. It has more than 100,000 volumes and about 150,000 pamphlets, comprising, it is said, copies of about three-fourths of all the medical literature published, and copies of nine-tenths of all the medical books published within the last ten years. Doctors now come from all parts of the country to consult this library of the British Museum, and that of France. The Smithsonian Library is very rich in scientific matter. It contains something like 300,000 volumes and pamphlets. There will be about 200,000 of these books stored in the National Library and accessible there. Then each of the great departments has a library. The Patent Office Library is one of the finest of its kind. It contains about 60,000 volumes, and is rich in scientific works and periodicals. The state department has many valuable books and manuscripts and the war department and navy department are rich in publications along their own lines. The geological survey has a fine library of travel and science, and there are other collections of value, all of which are open to the public. A great deal of scientific work is steadily going on in Washington, and there is no reason why it should not be the chief literary center of the country."

At this point Mr. Young spread out the plans of the floors of the library and showed me how he expected to arrange the different departments. We first took the third floor plan.

"Here," said he, "we will have a lecture room, which will seat 500 people, and which may be used for scientific and literary conventions. We shall use one of the rooms for the Smithsonian Institution collection, so that it may be right near the lecture room. In the south gallery we will have a collection of the graphic arts of the United States, making here an art gallery in which people can see what our people have done along these lines since the government has been founded. This collection is the outgrowth of the copyright law, but hitherto, owing to the lack of room, it has not been shown. Walking around the third floor, you next come to the side of the building facing the Capitol. Here will be a department devoted to early Americana and early printed works of Americans. On the north side of the building I have decided to put the maps and charts. This will be a very interesting collection.

There are many maps which were made by our officers during the revolutionary war. Some were drawn on the battlefields and not a few were made by British, French and American engineers.

"In the attic there will be a restaurant, and the building will be so arranged that scholars who wish to work here will have all conveniences."

"Tell me something about the reading room, Mr. Young," said I.

"Here it is on the library floor," replied John Russell Young, as he took another plan and spread it out before me. "It is about a hundred feet in diameter, and we have the desks already in, though not the chairs. I think we shall be able to seat 350 people and give them plenty of working space. The librarians will be in the center of the room, and they will be connected by telephone with every part of the building and with both houses of Congress. They will have pneumatic tubes running from their desk to every story of the book stacks. There are carriers which run on endless chains from every part of the book stacks to the reading room, so that within five minutes a librarian can get a book from any part of the library. At the right of the reading room as you go out will be the office of Mr. Spofford, Mr. Hutcheson and others of the assistants. In the northwest corner I have decided to put a library for the blind. We have a large number of books with raised letters printed for the use of the blind. We could give these out in the main reading room, but I fear that the people reading in this way would attract attention and sightseers might bother them, so I have decided to give them a room to themselves.

"Here along the north side of the building on the library floor," Mr. Young went on, "will be the cataloguing department. This is a very important branch of the library. The catalogue of a library is like the rudder of a ship—we should be at sea without one. We want to keep the book lists up to date. We publish, you know, a bulletin every week of the copyrighted books which have come in. We have already a good catalogue of the periodicals and of the volumes now in the library.

"Further on, on the same floor, in the northeast corner, is a room which is to be devoted to the Toner collection. This collection consists of 36,000 volumes. It is very strong in documents, manuscripts and books relating to George Washington, and I have placed it in charge of one of the last of the Washington family. Further around the building to the east there will be a department devoted to manuscripts. You remember that some manuscripts were stolen from the library not long ago. We shall have these kept under special lock and key, and we hope to guard such treasures carefully. Then there will be a room devoted to research, where people of good reputation, who are known to be carrying on certain lines of study or research, can have books brought to them, and do their work apart from the regular reading room. Another important classification which will be in this part of the building is that of periodicals. We have one of the most valuable newspaper collections in the world. We have all the magazines that have ever been published in America, and many of those of foreign countries. These will be accessible, and by card catalogue one will be able to get almost anything in them.

"At the south end of the library floor there will be the copyright department. This has been thoroughly systematized. It is now bringing in about \$1,000 a week. The mail is kept right

up to date, and I make it a point to have every day's work done at the end of the day. If the clerks have to work late, I tell them that they will have to rest the next day, but that the business must be kept up. In addition to these departments, there will be a number of others. In the basement there is the mailing department. We expect to have a bindery there. We have a branch in which copyright books are kept, and, in short, we hope eventually to have one of the most complete libraries of the world."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

JENSON'S TRAVELS.

Monday, June 22, 1896.—I called again on Mr. Gibson, the American consul in Beyrout, and he assisted me in drawing up a contract with a muleteer for taking me through Syria and Palestine in twenty-five days for a reasonable sum of money; but after every preparation had been made for starting in the afternoon, the man—an Arab of course—backed out, pretending that he had been drafted for a soldier; but the truth was no doubt that he was afraid on his own account to undertake the long journey, as we would have had to pass through one corner of the country inhabited by the Druses who at the present time are at war with the Turkish government. The news had just reached Beyrout that six hundred Turkish soldiers had been surprised and killed on the desert south of Damascus, in consequence of which there was great excitement in the city. The Druses have been in a state of rebellion for some time, and the government is calling in its troops from Armenia, Smyrna and other places to go to the Syrian desert to give the rebels dreadful punishment. The inhabitants of the island of Crete are also in a state of rebellion, so the sultan has his hands full at the present time. If the Druses, the Armenians, the Cretans and others who are dissatisfied with Turkish rule would or could unite upon a general effort it would be an easy matter for them to throw off the Turkish yoke; but these oriental people are so terribly mistrustful of each other, and so exceedingly jealous of one another that they prefer to "go it single handed;" and thus subject themselves to wholesale slaughtering by Turkish arms.

During the day I secured a Turkish passport for visiting the interior, and toward evening I took a long walk out to Ras Beyrout, the extreme outer point of the peninsula on which the city of Beyrout is situated. In my rambles through the town I happened to pass the soldiers' barracks just as a company of troops were arriving from the frontier with a number of Drusean prisoners.

Tuesday, June 23. The muleteer having gone back on his bargain, for which I afterwards felt thankful, I decided to make a visit to Damascus by rail. A French company have built a railroad over the mountains of Lebanon from Beyrout to Damascus, which has been in active operation for over two years. Consequently I left my hotel early in the morning and proceeded to the station, which is situated immediately east of the city of Beyrout. The train left at 6:45 a. m., and after skirting the bluffs on the right with fine mulberry groves and sample oriental country residences on our left, we soon reached the base of the Lebanon range, the train climbed with considerable difficulty, as the grade is very steep. The road is a narrow gauge one, and there are rack-and-pinion sections at different points where the grade is steepest. As we climbed very slowly, the speed at times being that of an ordinary American ox-team, we passed a num-