

Marion Harland's book, *His Great Self*, in which William Byrd is shown as forbidding the marriage of his daughter, Evelyn, to her Catholic English lover, and we all know the tradition that she later died of a broken heart. The book is well worth reading, picturing as it does the Byrd family life and the social life of the river-estates, mainly Westover. At this time, with a Byrd Governor of Virginia, it seems especially interesting. It is delightful, also, to follow with the author the housekeeping of the second Mrs. William Byrd of Westover. She is portrayed as enveloped in snowy apron putting up her famous preserves, or with recipe before her concocting some unusual delicacy, all the while gossiping or discussing her excellent husband and step-daughter, Evelyn. One dinner is described in detail and a footnote is added to the effect that this is a true menu, handed down from that time. And of course Marion Harland, the author, knew what she was talking about, as she was also the author of the famous cook book.

Another book of Virginia life, though not by a Virginian, is Hopinson Smith's *Colonel Carter of Cartersville*, too well known to need any introduction. Mrs. Roger A. Pryor, author of *Reminiscences of Peace and War*, wrote also a pleasing historical romance of Virginia, *The Colonel's Story*, where the old Colonel loves from childhood the young heroine who marries a boy young like herself.

And so it goes. There are many historical romances, and they seem native to Virginia soil. Each of us is apt to have a favorite—either author or novel—one that we think of instinctively as especially interesting. One person selects John Esten Cooke, because he grew up on his romances, another says *Red Rock* is a masterpiece, while another chooses Mary Johnston as the real magician.

Yet Mary Johnston's stories of Civil War times, *The Long Roll* and *Cease Firing*, were never popular. She seems to catch the spirit of Colonial times better than that of

the War between the States. Perhaps she attempts to much in the way of serious writing in these two, for they never had the appeal of her novels of earlier historical setting. These are perhaps too much history, instead of history used merely as a background for a romance, as she knows so well how to do.

Most of us, however, have to dig back into memory and wonder what impressed us most years ago when we read these books for it is a fact that we do not read them now. It seems really a great pity—historical romances should appeal to us still. Surely they do not go out of style; the very background of a former age is what makes them valuable. And it would be good for us to read more of them today—to dip into other times and forget a little all modern problems, in living again the real hardships of earlier and harder days; to mix with a people who knew how to live, how to love, and whose characters show a strength of purpose, a steadfastness, that we must admire. These are the early Virginians, the Colonials, the Confederates, and their stories tell of "old, unhappy, far-off things and battles long ago."

LUCY MCILWAINE DAVIS JONES

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION: ITS BEGINNINGS

THE origin of the American Library Association was briefly discussed by Carl H. Milam, Secretary of the American Library Association, at a recent meeting held to consider the implications of the new Graduate Library School at the University of Chicago. A grant of \$1,385,000 for the establishment of such a school has recently been made by the Carnegie Corporation. In part, Mr. Milam said:

"Fifty years ago there were comparatively few libraries and such libraries as existed were not much like those we know today. They were collections of books carefully

protected behind wire screens, if not behind locked doors. There was no such thing as classification, generally speaking. No one had thought much about children's libraries; there were no branch libraries; there were no traveling libraries.

"But there were a few people among the librarians fifty years ago who dreamed of better things, and they got together and formed the American Library Association in Philadelphia in 1876. As a result, they developed the classification schemes now to be found in every library; they brought the books out from behind the screens; they established children's libraries; they established branches; they established library schools; they established state traveling libraries and state library extension departments. School libraries and all of the modern tendencies of library work were more or less visioned by those early members.

"You will now find in every large city and in most of the small cities, public libraries. As a result of the very great growth of libraries in this country, due to the impetus of our vast resources; to the interest aroused by Mr. Carnegie who offered a bait to any town which would establish a library; to the influence of the leaders of the library movement who have always been willing to sacrifice a day, or a week, of their own time to bring into existence a new library—as a result of all these things, America has taken a leadership in the library movement.

International Aspects of A. L. A. Work

"Last year when the American Library Association celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, fifty-three representatives of twenty-three different countries all over the world came to help us celebrate. A number of those delegates attended the British Jubilee Conference this year at Edinburgh and there was formed there, as a result of an investigation made by the American Library Association, an International Library and Bibliographical Committee.

Two or three years ago the Chinese Edu-

cation Association asked the American Library Association to send a delegate to China to make a survey of libraries in a civilization two thousand five hundred years old, and to make recommendations to that country as to how it should develop modern libraries. Dr. Bostwick of the St. Louis Public Library was sent on a very successful mission.

"In Geneva this summer an A. L. A. representative spent several hours in conference with the secretariat and the librarian of the League of Nations Library advising with them upon plans for the wise expenditure of the two million dollars which Mr. Rockefeller has given for the League of Nations Library.

"I cite these things as an indication that the American library movement has a standing in the world. If, then, we have done such work as will command the respect of librarians, bibliographers, scholars and educators throughout the world, what is left?

"No library in America is as good as it should be. Many are hardly worthy to be called modern public libraries. There are not enough librarians to go around. There are ten schools without a library to one school with an organized collection of books which permits the children to read after they have been taught how. All of these problems are more than local and it is the business of the American Library Association to consider them in a national, and even a bi-national way, for, from the beginning, it has been an Association of the United States and Canada.

A. L. A. Activities In America

"The American Library Association and its committee members throughout the country are serving as a bureau of information on library matters in the hope that from year to year there may be a gradual improvement. The Association conducts a continual campaign for the better support of libraries and the better use of libraries. It issues publications for librarians. It aids

in book selection and publishes lists for the guidance particularly of small libraries. It has within the past two years distributed 350,000 reading courses bringing to the libraries the professional advice of such men as Vernon Kellogg, Edward E. Slosson, William Allen White, Samuel McChord Crothers, Herbert Adams Gibbons, Hamlin Garland, Lorado Taft, and a score of others. This is a part of the Association's efforts to promote adult education through libraries and to help libraries to become more important agencies for the education of the ambitious men and women who want to study.

"The Board of Education for Librarianship, which is one part of our organization, has been concerned with the advancement of library schools. It is on recommendation of this Board that standards are set for library schools. It is on its recommendation that grants are made for the advancement of library schools. It was on the recommendation of this Board that the grant was made to the University of Chicago for the establishment of the advanced library school here.

"The Association conducts surveys and investigations in various aspects of library work. Within the past few days we have been called upon to prepare a plan for the relief of the libraries ruined by the Mississippi flood. On our recommendation an appropriation has been made for a survey of libraries in British Columbia. It was on the recommendation of the American Library Association that demonstration library work was undertaken in Louisiana to determine whether a state which had made little progress in libraries could be advanced materially within a few years.

Rural Library Need Is Greatest

"But the greatest problem grows out of the fact that there are still 50,000,000 people in the United States and Canada without libraries. Forty-five millions of them live in

the United States and 42,000,000 live in the country districts of the United States.

"We believe that citizens should have the opportunity for education throughout all the years of their lives. We are attempting to teach children to read—all the children. We have accepted libraries as necessary in the city. But there are 83 per cent of our rural population without libraries.

"The county library is the solution. If we face seriously the problem of equal opportunity for the people in the country with those who live in town, it is simply a problem of finding out how libraries may be established for 2,800 counties in the United States which do not have any sort of library.

"The work of libraries seems more important as one visualizes the changes in education which have been brought to our attention tonight. The responsibility for the advancement of libraries and for the establishment of libraries where they do not exist rests largely upon those who are in some way identified with libraries."

ORIGINAL RHYTHMIC DANCES

ONE of the most fascinating and helpful activities of primary children is rhythmic songs and dances. They offer much chance for individual expression of pupils as well as for group co-operation. The work starts with the known. The teacher of the lower grades shows the children simple steps and music to the nursery rhymes that they are familiar with. The children thus gain a sense of rhythm and begin dramatic imitation, which is natural to pupils of this age. As we go on to the fourth grade, the pupils like to suggest their own interpretations of the songs. Then it is helpful to introduce the less well known works or original dances.

The following are some of the original steps set to the familiar music of the nurs-