

Compliments of
LETTER OF J. L. M. CURRY

AND

RESOLUTIONS

EMPOWERING THE GOVERNOR TO ENTER INTO CORRESPONDENCE
WITH THE EXECUTIVES OF THE SEVERAL SOUTHERN
STATES, WITH A VIEW TO PERPETUATING THE
MEMORY OF GEORGE PEABODY.

To the General Assembly of Virginia:

The undersigned, a citizen of Virginia, would respectfully represent to your honorable bodies, that in 1887 George Peabody, a citizen of Massachusetts, made a munificent gift of \$3,000,000 "for the promotion and encouragement of education among the young of the more destitute portion of Southern and Southwestern States of our Union," "those portions of our beloved and common country which have suffered from the destructive ravages, and the not less disastrous consequences of civil war." This money was placed in the hands of distinguished persons, who have since sacredly devoted the income to the purpose of the trust. In the Board Virginia has from the beginning had Representatives William C. Rives, A. H. H. Stuart, and William Wirt Henry. The first regular meeting after organization was held in Richmond, and from that time to this Virginia has shared liberally in the benefits of the fund. Richmond, Petersburg, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Hampton, Manassas, Winchester, Lynchburg, Alexandria, Staunton, Fincastle, Lexington, Manchester, Wytheville, Harrisonburg, Danville, Woodstock, Strasburg, Palmyra, Marion, Buchanan, Culpeper, Leesburg, Bristol, Independence, Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, Bridgewater, Warrenton, Christiansburg, Salem, Bedford City, Berryville, Scottsville, Blacksburg, Waynesboro, Chincoteague, Abingdon, the counties of Floyd, Wythe, Louisa, Buckingham, Tazewell, Fluvanna, Powhatan, Bland, and other counties and places, including nearly every part of the State, have received substantial help.

HELP TO NORMAL SCHOOLS.

The colored normal schools of Hampton and Petersburg get regular annual assistance. The Farmville school, from its genesis, even before its birth, has excited the special interest of the trustees, and the favor bestowed has not for a moment been intermitted. The sums donated to Virginia, including the present year, will aggregate nearly \$312,000. The institutes for white and colored teachers have

been mainly, for a time exclusively, sustained by Peabody's appropriations. Over two hundred and fifty students from the State, as beneficiaries at the Peabody Normal College, selected by the superintendent after competitive examination, have been trained as teachers, and many of them are doing excellent work in the public schools and institutions of learning.

I am sure the living State superintendents—Ruffner, Buchanan, and Massey—will cheerfully sustain me in the assertion that the fund has been a most potent auxiliary in building up our admirable school system.

What is true of Virginia is true in a greater or less degree of all the Southern States, except Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri, which have not been recipients of any portion of the income. Mr. Peabody, coming to us in our hour of need and despair, may well be called the South's greatest benefactor.

A MEMORIAL SUGGESTED.

For several years the undersigned, in public address and in reports as general manager of the fund, has suggested and urged that the southern States would do a grateful and proper act if they would combine and erect, by joint contribution, a statue of marble or bronze in honor of Mr. Peabody, and place it in the old hall of the House of Representatives, in Washington city. The time for doing this is most propitious. The Governor of South Carolina, in a recent message, uses this patriotic language: "It will be a graceful act, and a recognition of his benevolence for the Southern States, to join in erecting a statue of this great philanthropist, to be placed in the Capitol, among those of our country's heroes and statesmen. I would respectfully recommend that you pass a joint resolution empowering the Governor of this State to correspond with the Governors of the other Southern States with a view to carrying out this suggestion in paying tribute to our common benefactor."

Virginia would honor herself and appropriately voice the gratitude of her people if the General Assembly will promptly and with enthusiasm respond to the recommendation of her sister States.

J. L. M. CURRY.

January 24, 1896.

Whereas, By the munificence of George Peabody, the State of Virginia has received from the custodians of the fund left for educational purposes, a large amount of money, aggregating over \$300,000, which has materially aided the State in the education of teachers for the public schools of the State; and

Whereas, The memory of George Peabody should be perpetuated by all true lovers of philanthropy, and unselfish generosity;

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Delegates concurring) That the Governor be requested to enter into correspondence with the Executives of the several Southern States, who have been the recipients of this bounty, with a view of taking some united action to perpetuate the memory of this distinguished philanthropist.

Resolved, That the Governor be requested, if possible, to report the result of his correspondence before the adjournment of the present session, with such recommendations as he may suggest.

Compliments of

WILLIAM LOVENSTEIN.

Patron