HE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

ARRIVE at some understanding of the activities of the Library of Congress as an institution, a brief description of the building, which stands as a lasting monument to American genius in architecture, sculpture and art will e necessary. The grounds adjoin those of

the national Capitol, the outer walls having a Trontage on four The building is of the Italian renaissance order of architecture, has three stories covers an area of nearly four acres of ground, with four large inner courts 150 by 75 to 100 leet in size. It is lighted by about 2,000 windows. its gilded dome, 195 feet high, terminates in a tilded finial representing the ever-burning torch

In front of the main entrance and between the treat stone stairways leading to the facade is the great semicircular basin representing the Court of Neptune-the classic god of the seawhose huge bronze figure forms the center of a group of tritons, sea nymphs, sea horses, seppents and other marine animals and amphibious meatures. This fountain is said to be the most lavishly ornamented creation of its kind in this

The exterior of the building is not profusely decorated, but the very simplicity of its classic lines adds to the grandeur of its imposing appearsnee. The entrance pavilion has sixteen rounded piliars with Corinthian capitals. Four colossal atlantes support the pediment, in which are sculptured American eagles, with supporting figares of children. In the windows are nine great portrait-busts, in granite, of Emerson, Irving, Goethe, Franklin, Macaulay, Hawthorne, Scott, Demosthenes and Dante. The three deep arches of the pavilion terminate in the three massive bronze entrance doors, 14 feet high and 71% feet wide, weighing 21/, tons each, which are beautiful works of art in themselves in their sculptured

dusigns in relief, typifying Tradition, Writing and the art of Printing.

Beyond these doors is the main vestibule, separated from staircase hall by piers of Italian marble, ornaunented with pilusters supporting marble arches, overhead being a paneled ceiling finished in white and gold, **Impressively** and elegant in de-The gilded beams of the ceiling are supported by white and gold con-

in front of each and almost detached from it stand out the sculptured figures, in pairs, of the goddess Minerva, one of War, and the other of Peace.

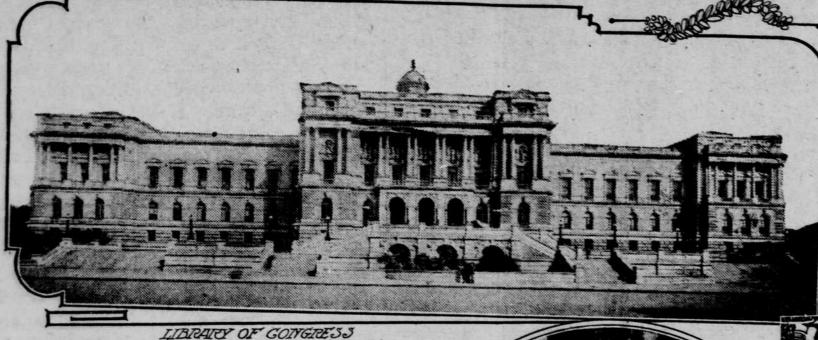
From this vestibule is entered the staircase half, an apartment unsurpassed in magniticence and artistic beauty by any entrance hall in the world. It is truly "a vision in polished stone," with its vaulted ceiling 72 feet high. its sides lined throughout with fine Italian marble, highly polished, while on the sides rise pairs of magnificent marble columns with elaborately carved Corinthian capitals. Through the intervening spaces are seen glimpses of the rich coloring of the mural paintings and the glittering gold of the ceiling decorations of the vaulted arches and galleries of the second floor.

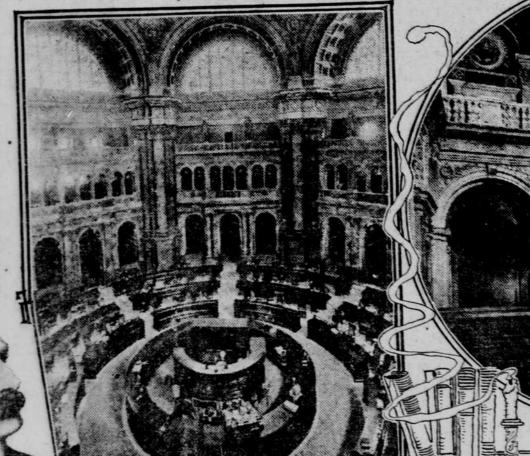
The grand double staircase with white marble balustrades, one on the north and the other on the south side of the hall, has probably no equal in the western hemisphere. The newel posts, richly decorated with festoons of flowers and leaves, are surmounted by two buge bronze figures of classically draped women holding aloft a cluster of electric lights. The staircases are highly ornamented with miniature marble figures carved in relief representing in emblematic sculpture the various arts and sciences. On the buttress of the south stairway are the sculptured figures representing America and Africa supporting between them a globe showing these continents, while on the north side a similar group represents Europe and Asia.

This spacious and magnificently decorated hall, taken in connection with the grand corridors and the elaborately and artistically emished reading room, furnish the finest marble interior in America. From the east corridor a stairway ascends

to the balcony of the reading room. On the wall of the landing of this stairway is a beautiful mosale of Minerva, the goddress of wisdom, by Elibu Vedder. Entering the visitors' gatlery an excellent view is afforded of this specious rotunda or main reading room. Its vastness is but dimly appreciable from the here statement that it is 100 feet in diameter and 125 feet in beight, and that the pillars are 40 feet high and the windows 32 feet wide. One of its chief beauties is the harmonious ding of the rich coloring effected by the dark Tennessee, the red Numidian and the sellow shades of Sienna marbles, accentuated by the old Ivory of the stucco ornamentation of the dome. Upon the eight immense piers supporting the dome are placed female figures ossul stature, above each being a quotation relative to the phase of learning or achievement further represented by the 16 bronge statues standing in the gallery, two in each of the great arches which encircle the. room. In these statues Religion is represented by Moses and Saint Paul; Commerce by Columbus and Fulton; History by Herodotus and Gibbon; Art by Michael Angelo and Beethoven; Philosophy by Plato and Bacon; Poetry by Homer and Shakespeare; Law by Solon Kent; Science by Newton and Henry.

In the collar of the dome, which is 150 feet in circumference, is a symbolism of the twelve nations and epochs which have contributed to the advance of the world, each represented as a seated figure bearing the emblems suggestive of its peculiar attribute. Egypt represents Written Records; Judea, Religion; Greece,





THE ROTUNDA READING ROOM Philosophy; Rome, Adminis-

tration; Islam, Physics; Middle Ages, Modern Languages; Italy, Fine Arts; Germany, Art of Printing; Spain, Discovery; England, Literature; France, Emancipation; and Amer-

ica, Science

Gy MR. HERBERT PUTNAM

in the crown of the great lantern of the dome is painted The Human Understanding, an allegorical figure of a woman floating among the clouds and attended by two children genii.

The artistic mural decoration of the interior is upon a magnificent scale and the paintings in each of the many pavilions, corridors and galleries are so numerous that no attempt can be made in this article to give a description of them. Every artistic design has purpose and meaning in every stroke of the artist's brush, in every curve and line wrought by the sculptor's chisel. The completed building stands today as the highest expression of American art, the greatest monument yet erected to American genius.

The eight acres of floor space contained in the building are utilized as follows: On the ground floor are the copyright office, reading room for the blind, superintendent's and disbursing office, bookbinding department, printing department, music rooms, mail room, lockers etc. The first floor contains the main reading room, the librarian's room, periodical reading room, senators' reading room, representatives' reading room, map and chart rooms, administration rooms. The second floor is taken up with the galleries, pavilions and rooms filled with exhibits of rare engravings, manuscripts, prints, rare books, first editions, portraits of the presidents and other celebrated personages. The attic floor contains a kitchen and restaurant, rooms for print repairs, manuscript repairs, photography documents and copyright storage.

In 1814 the library, consisting of about 3,000 volumes, was burned by the British troops. Congress made a fresh start by purchasing Thomas Jefferson library of about 7,000 volumes, which grew until in 1851 it had about 55,000 volumes. Another fire then destroyed all but 20,000 of these. The country had grown so much in wealth by this time, however, that this was but a temporary check, and the library quarters in the Capitol were promptly restored and many of the books which had been destroyed were replaced. In 1867 the Peter Force collection of Americana, consisting of about 60,000 articles, was purchased for \$110,-000, and the acquisition in the same year of the library of the Smithsonian institution, consisting of 40,000 volumes, brought the total up to over 200,000 volumes. The copyright law of 1846 required the deposit of one copy of each book copyrighted in the library, and an act was passed in 1870 which placed the registration of copyrights under the care of the librarian of congress, and required the deposit of two copies of each book or article copyrighted, thus assuring the acquisition of books published in the United States.

The rapid progress of the library dates from 1864, when Dr. A. R. Spofford was appointed librarian. His tireless energy and unflagging zeal increased the acquisitions until in 1897, date of his retirement, it had grown to more than 1,000,000 books and pamphlets, and the necessity for more spacious quarters had been realized for some years. In 1886 the construction of a new building was authorized and eleven years later this was completed at a cost of \$6,347,000, on a site bought for \$585,-000. This is the present home of the third

largest library in the world. That the cost of

this magnificent building was kept down to such a comparatively reasonable figure is explained by the fact that many of the artists and sculptors, in a spirit of patriotic loyalty, gave their genius and their art free of cost to the nation. It is said that twice the sum expended could not duplicate the building under ordinary circumstances.

As to the practical features of the institution, its capacity, facilities for serving the public, and its various activities, only a brief outline can be given. Including the main the room for peri senators' and representatives reading rooms, and the special reservations in the alcoves and galleries, the library can comfortably accommodate 1,000 readers at any one time.

The main reading room, which contains the issue desk, has seating capacity and desks for 200 readers and 60 tables in the alcoves and galleries, which are assigned to scholars making extended investigations. The issue desk is connected with the stacks, the Capitol, Smithsonian division and librarian's office by pneumatic tubes, while electric book carriers connect the desk with the stacks and with the

When a book is called for at the desk the slip is sent by a pneumatic tube to the clerk in the proper stack. He places the book into a receptacle, from which it is taken by one of the brass book baskets, eighteen of which are mounted on an endless double chain forming the book carrier, which travels continually between the stacks and the issue desk. The basket carries the book down to the reading room and automatically deposits it into a cushioned box at the central desk, whence it is taken out by the attendant and delivered to the desk selected by the reader. The books can also be returned to the stacks in the same manner. If a member of congress desires a book delivered to him in the Capitol, the pneumatic tube carries the slip making the request to the issue desk and another electric book carrier conveys the book through an underground tunnel over a quarter of a mile in length and delivers it to the waiting statesman in about three minutes.

The book stacks, which radiate from the main reading room, consist of a series of castiron frames, supporting tiers and shelves to a height of nine and ten stories to the roof, the largest stack being 65 feet high. The shelves. of cold-rolled steel, are polished smooth, and since the addition of the last stack have a capacity of about 3,000,000 volumes. The ultimate capacity, when other stacks are added, will be over 4,000,000 volumes-a row of books which would extend over 100 miles.

According to the report of Mr. Herbert Putnam, the librarian, just submitted to congress, the contents of the library at present are:

Maps and charts (pieces) 123,568 Music (volumes and pieces) 557,010 Manuscripts (a numerical statement not feas-

The library proper is strongest in bibliography, public documents (especially those of foreign governments), Americana, economics, political science, public law and legislation, genealogy and newspapers. Through the Smithsonian institution extensive files of transactions of foreign learned societies are received. By virtue of the copyright law it has received the most complete collection in existence of the products of the American press. American docal history and biography are represented with unusual fullness. The Yudin collection of some 80,000 volumes of Russian works, purchased in 1907, is particularly valuable for the

history of Russia and Siberia. A collection of

bought in 1907, and in 1908 the Huitfeldt-Kaas collection of Scandinavian literature of about 5,000 volumes. Orientalia is further represented by the Weber library of Sanskrit literature (3,018 volumes, 1,002 pamphlets). The library has bought recently large numbers of the monumenta of European history, and is rapidly

Japanese books (9,000 volumes) was

MAIN STAIRWAY

growing in the sciences, pure and applied. The administrative officers of the library are the librarian, chief assistant librarian, chief clerk and secretary. The superintendent of the building and grounds, with his aids, has entire charge of the maintenance of the building and makes all disbursements for the

The library force, consisting of about 500 persons, is organized into divisions, each with a chief and assistants. The followinig constitute the principal divisions: Mail and delivery, order, printing office and bindery, catalogue, card distribution, bibliography, periodicals, documents, manuscripts, maps and charts, prints, law library and copyright office.

FIG GATHERING IN ITALY.

The season for gathering the figs in Italy joins hands in October with the vintage; but it really begins in august, owing to a curious system of culture.

Early in August the fig gatherers squirm through the twisting branches from tree top to tree top and "oil the fruit." These fig people are nomadic; they appear and disappear like the wandering harvesters of France. Late in July the masserie are rented to them, a stated sum being paid to the proprietor, a payment that gives to the fig gatherers the right to all the fruit, beginning with the figs and ending with the last cluster of grapes.

Rude huts thatched with straw are built by the proprietor of all his orchards, and in these the gypsylike harvesters live with their families. Sometimes they supplement their narrow quarters with a ragged tent. Three sticks placed crosswise and a kettle in the crotch constitute the kitchen. Shortly after their arrival the work of

forcing the fruit is begun. The methods employed are curious. In one a wad of cotton is dipped in olive oil and gently rubbed on the flower end of the fig. Fig by fig is thus treated, and in eight days the fruit is ready for the market. Another method consists in gathering in the

spring the half formed fruit, which is strung on ropes. These ropes or garlands are thrown over the branches of the tree and are allowed to decay under the burning sun. There is born of this decay an insect that pierces the growing fig and induces rapid ma-

The fig, when perfectly ripe, exudes a drop honey sweet juice at the nether end, which never falls but hangs there, a standing temptation to children and to bees. When fresh picked at this stage the fig has a rich flavor entirely lost in the dried fruit.

A Striking Illustration.
"When your husband started the quarret again what did you do?" "Took your advice and gave him a light re

"That's right. Did it affect him?" "It ought to have done so. I threw the lamp

A Distinction. Manager-You told me you had a full house at the performance last night, and now I am told there were only a few there and every

Actor-That's just what I said-that the house was full.

He Was Stung By Pickles

Hour During a Visit to West Indies.

Britisher Spends Bad Quarter of an ing a visit to St. Lucia, in the West

This Britisher had been hospitably entertained by the neighboring plant-The French are fond of saying that ers, who, as he was preparing to re-

made for his unpleasant pet, he kept fallen off, he started to rush from sent, replacing the glass stopper with a piece of perforated zinc. .

One afternoon, having placed the jar upon the table, he was watching the serpent and smoking a cigar. Sud-

men of which he had been anxious to course, was of the fer-de-lance, and, The servants, hearing him cry that obtain. While waiting to have a box not realizing that his slippers had the fer-de-lance was loose, were afraid it in the glass jar in which it had been the room, when he felt what seemed to be a slight blow on the foot, followed by a burning pain.

He instantly drew himself up in the chair, in dread of a second bite, and

to come in, but at last his host appeared with lights and ready to dispatch the serpent. It was found still in the jar upon the table.

The cause of the afarm was the fall of a jar of hot pickles which was also standing on the table, and which had made frantic efforts to suck the been overturned in some way. As the wound. Failing in that, he held out Britisher's foot struck the floor it was



UNCLE JOE, 76, STILL YOUNG

"Uncle Joe" Cannon celebrated his seventy-sixth birthday at Washington the other day under a cloud of grief. The night before he exultantly announced that he was going to observe the day by dissipating wildly. A circus was in town and he was going to take the afternoon and, if necessary, the evening off and go to see the lions and tigers and the hippograffe and the beautiful lady acrobats and the hairraising trapezists.

Instead of that he went meekly up to the home on Congressman Weeks, of Massachusetts, with his daughter and spent the evening decorously

"Thought you were going to the circus," a reporter said to him.

"I was," said Uncle Joe, "but it rained. And in the course of seventyfire-I mean seventy-six-years of quiet and irreproachable life I have found that whenever it rains and I go to a circus I always get wet.

"The people around me seem to be dry and happy. I always get that wet spot and am miserable. If seventy-five years-I should say seventy-sixteach a man anything, it must be to profit by experience.

"It has taken me seventy-five years to learn anything, but now that I'm seventy-six I have learned this lesson, if not any other, and I have just sense enough not to go.

"So I'm up here at John Weeks', with Mrs. Weeks and my daughter, and I've missed the circus, but I'm happy and I'm not damp."

"I suppose you got a lot of congratulations?" "Yes," said the ex-speaker, reflectively. "Quite a number of people came up to me and congratulated me on being a year nearer the grave. Funny thing to congratulate a man on. Don't you think so? But they meant it

"How does it feel to be seventy-six?"

"I don't notice any perceptible difference," said Uncle Joe, taking his cigar out for the first time and pondering. "I'm very well, but I was very well yesterday. I suppose I'm seventy-six because everybody tells me so, but I'm not throwing my hat up about it, and at the same time, son, I'm not weeping about it."

SULTAN A MEDIATIZED RULER



On March 30, France inaugurated a change in her political dealings with Morocco, by the signing of a treaty with the Sultan, Mulia-Abd-el-Hafid, establishing a French protectorate. France has had much experience in the government of the North African countries, which line the Mediterranean from Tripoli to the Atlantic ocean, and the decision to leave the government nominally in native hands is a wise one. It is evidently based on the success of her peaceful conquest of Tunis where the externals of Arab rule have been preserved. In Algeria, on the other hand, where the administration is directly and openly French, her domination aroused the bitter jealousy and hostility of the natives who saw in the elimination of their native rulers a threatened subversion of the Mahommedan religion. with the result that France has had to maintain her footing by rigorous military rule. Mulia Hafid, the pres-

occo, is known to his subjects as the Prince of True Believers and is the thirty-sixth lineal descendant of Ali. uncle and son-in-law of the Prophet Mahomet. He revolted against his brother, the Sultan Mulia Aziz, in 1907, and his usurpation of the throne was recognized by the powers in January, 1909. He is a learned and devoted adherent of Islamism and has written several books on theology and philology.

GOV. WEST TRUSTS CONVICTS

"The only honor lacking in the average criminal is that which is wrenched from him by incivility, distrust and inhumanity. Extend to a convict the courtesy, confidence and trust due him as a man and he will respond with more honor than the average person who has never seen the bars, the dungeon or the dismal gray walls of a penitentiary."

Basing his action on this bit of philosophy, Gov. Oswald West of Oregon recently threw open the barred doors of the Oregon state penitentiary and turned more than 200 convicts out into the inviting forests and fields to serve the remainder of their terms without guards, stripes, chains or

With one sweep the dungeon, the

dark cell, the striped suits, the ball and chain and the gallows were wiped out as unnecessary parts of the institution and in their stead was established a unique and revolutionary

honor system. Since the first wholesale liberation convicts have been added to the list as they have proven eligible until the total number today is about 500. Honor is the only guard over fifteen convict camps which are maintained permanently in various parts of the state, in some cases many miles from the dingy walls of the prison, and in all cases in the forests where the only effort required to make an escape is to leisurely disappear.

On every side are hiding places where detection by the officers would be difficult if they learned of the escape before the convict had time to reach any of the cities of the northwest where chances for permanent escape would

be good. Out of the fifteen convict camps in which are now about 300 men one half are so far from the state prison that the convicts are not required to report in at night. In some cases the entire camp could desert and the officials would not know about it for two or three days. But Governor West has too much confidence in yeggmen, burglars, holdup men, murderers and sneak thieves to believe that they would break the pledges which they make before being liberated.

The men are engaged in building roads, oprating rock quarries and

VICE-PRESIDENT OF BIG SHOW



Reuben B. Hale, the vice-president of the Panama-Pacific International exposition, to be held in San Francisco in 1915, celebrating the completion of the Panama Canal, was one of a special commission appointed to make a trip abroad to lay before ministers of foreign affairs and army and navy authorities, the details and scope of the enterprise. The commission sailed on the Mauretania April 24th. Mr. Hale is a well-known merchant of San Francisco, who was the first person to suggest the holding of an exposition to celebrate the completion of the Panama Canal. The commission consists of Mr. John Hays Hammond, president; Mr. Reuben B. Hale, vicepresident of the Panama-Pacific International exposition; Brigadier-General Clarence B. Edwards, U. S. A.; Mr. William T. Sesnon, vice-president of the San Francisco chamber of commerce; Mr. Theodore Hardee, executive officer: Mr. Charles F. Wilson,

diplomatic officer, and Mr. Archibald C. Emery, secretary. General Edwards spends a bad quarter of an turn, had sent him gifts of guava jellow it is his lot to endure like. Among other gifts he received the foot so it would bleed freely, and hear letters to the highest sow. could have spent a worse quarter of a live fer-de-lance, one of the deadlest serpents in the world, a specilest serpents in the world in those latitudes. He did not serve the angle of the specilest serpents in the world in the series of the series of the series of the world in the series of the world in the series of the series of the world in the series of th