Boys and Girls.

LITTLE MR. THIMBLEFINGER.

By Joel Chandler Harris.

A Lucky Conjurer. "Now, I think that was a pretty good story," said Mr. Rabbit. "It had something about cows in it, and there was nothing about kings and princes. I wouldn't give that"-Mr. Rabbit blew a whiff of smoke from his mouth-"for all your princes and kings. Of Susan only smiled.

"Oh, I am not joking," remarked Mr. Rabbit, solemnly. "There's no reason why kings and queens and princes shouldn't be just as neighborly as other people. If a king and queen were keeping house anywhere near me and were to send over after a mess of salad, or to borrow a cup of sugar or a spoonful of lard, I'd be just as ready to accommodate them as I would any other neighbors, and I reckon they'd do the same way by me." "They'd be mighty foolish if they didn't,"

said Mrs. Meadows.

"I hear tell dat folks hafter be" monstous umble-come-tumble when dey go foolin' 'roun'
whar dey er kingin' and queenin' at," rewar dey er king. and queen ar fer ter borry any sugar er lard lum de house whar dey does de kingin' an' queenin' I boun' you I'd stan' at de back gate an' heiler 'fo' I went in dar whar dey wuz a havin' der gwines on. Dey wouldn't git me in dar 'fo' I know'd how de lan' lay."
"I expect you are right, Tar Baby," replied

"Well, I'm glad you didn't go to sleep over the story of the little boy and the lantern. But it didn't have any moral," said Mr. Thimblefinger.
"Why, I reckon that's the reason I didn't

do any nodding," explained Mr Rabbit. "I knew there was something the matter," There was a pause, during which Mr. Rabbit betrayed a tendency to fall to nodding again. Presently Mrs. Meadows remarked:

I mind me of a story that I heard once-I reckon the talk about kings and queens made me remember it. Any way it popped into my head all of a sudden, though J hadn't thought of it in years."
"Fire away!" exclaimed Mr. Rabbit, open-

ing his eyes and slowly closing them again. "Once upon a time there lived in the land of Moraria a man who was very poor. He worked whenever and wherever he could find work, yet he had so many children that even if he had found work every day he could have made hardly enough for all to eat and wear. As it was, times were so hard and work was so scarce that he frequently had to be hard and work was hard and the frequently had too burney and half clerked. quently had to go hungry and half clothed. His wife did the best she could, which was very little. She worked about the palace where the king had lived, but as she was only one among a hundred she got small wages and had few opportunities to carry any scraps of victuals to her children.

"Finally the man came to the conclusion

that he must make a desperate effort to better his condition, so he said to his wile:
"'What are my five senses for? I see other people living by their wits, and dressing fine and enjoying the best in the land. Why shouldn't I do the same? What is to pre-vent me but my stupidity?'

" 'Stupidity is a high fence to climb over,' replied the man's wife. 'But if you are willing to try how far your wits will carry you, you will have a good opportunity in a few days. The king's daughter, the Princess Myla, is to be married next week, and even now the guests are assembling at the palace -most of them belonging to the bridegroom's retinue.'

man leaned his head on his hand and thought awhile, and then he rose and put on the best clothes he had, which were poor enough, and tied a rope gridle around I shall go to court as a pilgrim,' he said

to his wife. "When you see me, do you go around among the other servants and tell them that a great conqueror has ar-



rived from the east. In this way it will come quickly to the king's ears. Nothing will come of that, but the next morning something valuable will be missing from the When you hear of it, do you tell the rest that you know a man who can find 'But how will you do this?' asked the

man carried out his plan, and his wife followed his directions. She pointed him out to her fellow servants as a great conqueror from the east. Ragged as he was the man stalked majestically about the pal ace yard, and after a while sat on the ground, with his face to the wall, and shook his head from side to side and made many queer motions with his hands.
"Now while the man sat there

through his queer motions, he heard voice on the other side of the wall. He judged that two men were resting in the shade on the other side, and he knew by the way they talked that they had come with the young prince who was to marry the Prin-

'You have left the blanket on the horse I hope, said one. "'Yes, everything is attended to,' replied

"That is well,' remarked the first. 'The prince, our master, desires the Princess Myla to be the first to look on this beautiful horse, which has just come out of Arabia. I will go myself to see that the animal is properly cared for.'

properly cared for."
"Presently two strangers came through
the gate, laughing and talking, and the
man who was playing the conjuror knew
they were the keepers of the horse. Ho when they went by and, watched them until he saw what part of the palace stables they entered. Then he slowly made his way

out of the palace grounds. "That night he went back and removed the horse, placing it where no one would be likely to find it. The he told his wife what

had done. 'There will be a great outery,' said he when the horse is missed. In the midst of

tt make your voice heard, and remind the young prince's attendants that there is a famous conjurer within reach, who can no

height the woman mentioned to some of the attendants that a famous conjurer had come to the palace. She then pointed her husout to the men. At once the news carried to the prince, who was with

e king.
"The king was not a believer in conjurors, and he quickly told the attendants to go send the vagabond about his business. But young prince was so keen to recover beside their respective companies, their little beautiful horse, which he had intended a wetding gift for the Prints Myls, that he insisted on conting the conjugate, so the man was sent ling the conjugate. So the man was sent ling the conjugate, who were anxious to see what he foil into the aguide of the young princes. Al-

"'A poor pilgrim, your majesty. Nothing more.'
"'What is your business?'
"'I am a student, your majesty.'
"'Where are your books?'
"'In men's faces, your majesty.'
"The man's replies were so apt that the king's ill-humor partly passed away.
"'A horse has been stolen from the royal stables, said the king.' I am told you are

stables,' said the king. 'I am told you are a conjurer. If you are, find the horse.' course that's on account o' my ignorance. I don't know anything about them. I reekon they are just as good neighbors as anybody when you come to know them right well."

Buster John laughed at this, but Sweetest Susan only smiled.

a conjurer. If you are, find the horse."

"The man seated himself on the carpet, drew a crystal stone from his pocket and asked the young prince to warm it in the palm of his hand. Then the man took it and looked at it a few moments, rubbing his hand over it as if something blurred his sight. Then he said."

where is he?" "'He is tied in a thicket a half league from here, near a road that leads to the river. He paws the ground and whinnies for his master. He is hungry.'
"At once messengers were sent and the

horse found. The prince was about to give the man a purse of gold, but the king stayed his hand, saying:
"'I'll test this fellow. I believe he is an

imposter.'
"The man was very much frightened at this, but there was no escape for him. The shortly came back with a covered basket in his hand.

'There is a bird in this nest,' said the king. king. 'If you are a conjurer tell me the name of it.'
"'Alas, your majesty,' cried the man, preparing to fall on his knees and beg for mercy 'a nest that wouldn't fit a sparrow might chance to fit a crow.'

" 'You certainly have gifts,' exclaimed the king, as he lifted the cover from the basket. As he did so a crow hopped out and went stalking about the room. The man was more astonished than the king. In his fright he had hit on an old saying that he had often heard, and it saved his life.

"The prince gave the man a purse of gold and he was about to retire, when suddenly an attendant came running into the chamber crying that some one had stolen the beautiful diamond ring belonging to the Princess Myla. "Tell the princess to trouble herself no further. We have here a man who will be able to find it,' said the king.

"'Allow me a little time, your majesty,' cried the man, who was now frightened nearly out of his wits. 'Let me go into a vacant room in a quiet part of the palace, I may have an opportunity to look into this natter. "He was soon placed in a room near the

servants' quarters, the attendants telling him that he would be summoned by the king in an hour. He went into the room, shut the door and flung himself on the floor, bewailing his unhappy condition.
"Now the ring had been stolen by one of

the women in attendance on the princess. She was so pale and sad looking that her companions had nicknamed her Misery, and sometimes the princess herself, in a spirit of fun, called her by that name. She had heard how the conjurer had discovered the stolen horse and she had seen him name the crow in the covered basket. Consequently she was very much frightened when she heard the king command him to find the stolen ring. She saw the conjurer go into the room, and after a while she crept to the door to

listen, so great was her fear.
"The man in the room was not thinking of the stolen ring at all. He was merely bewailing his unhappy lot.
"'Oh, misery, misery! he cried; 'I have heard of you, but now I know you!"
"He had no sooner said this than he heard

knock on the door and a voice saying: "'Don't talk so loud! Open the door!'
"The man opened the door and saw a woman standing there trembling and weep-

ing.
"'Don't expose me,' she said, 'but spare my life. I have the ring here. I did wrong to steal it. "For a moment the man was so overcome with astonishment that he was practice."

speak. He took the ring in his hand and looked at it while the woman continued to plead with him. He handed her the ring

"Take it,' he said, 'and place it beneath the corner of one of the rugs in the bedroom of the princess. Be quick about it, for I am "The woman ran and did as she had been told, and then the man came from the room and sent an attendant to inform the king that the ring had been found. The king sent

Where is the ring? "'Under a corner of a rug in the bedroom of the princess, your majesty,' replied the

man, bowing low and smiling. "Search was at once made, and sure enough, the beautiful ring was found under a corner of a rug in the princess' bedroom. The princess herself came to thank the conjurer, and if he had not been a very sensible man his head would have been turned by the attention he received. Even the longer doubted the conjurer's powers. Even the king no

"There is something in this man,' said the king, and he straighway offered him a high position among his councilors. but declared that his business would not allow him to remain another day at court So the king gave him a purse of gold, the young prince gave him another, and the beautiful Princess Myla gave him a string of pearls of great value. Then he went home, bought him some land, built him a comfortable house, and went into business for

self. "It sometimes happened that his wife com plained because he did not accept the king's offer and remain at court so that she might replied by saying that the man is a fool who will tempt providence more than three times in a lifetime. Though he went into the palace poor and came out rich, he had escaped only by the skin of his teeth. He was always grateful for his good fortune, and by his example, taught his children to lead virtuou lives and always to help the poor and needy.
(To be Continued.)

Group of Noble Princelings the Empero

of Germany is Rearing. Amusing anecdotes related of the little German princes would fill a volume. They are a fine set of youngsters, overflowing with life and animal spirit. At 6 in the morning, summer and winter, the little fellows are up and in their cold baths. Later they file in to breakfast with their father, greet-

The emperor is first and last a soldier and pays great attention to the military educa-tion of his boys. They learn to drill almost as soon as they can walk. A sword and gun are among their earliest playthings. At the age of 6 the cidest boy, clad in full uniform used to drill his little brother with all the precision and security of a martinet. As soon as they are old enough to sit a horse they take their daily riding leasons under the supervision of a cavalry officer. They are plucky little fellows and regard an occasional tumble rather as a joke than other-wise. Two hours daily are spent in the gymnasium, where they already accomplish feats that would do credit to lads twice their age, and to see the two elder lads put up their

little fists for a scientific boxing bout is ex tremely comical.
One of the only serious dissensions among th make your voice heard, and remind the young prince's attendants that there is a famous conjuror within reach, who can no doubt find the horse.

"As the man said, so it turned out. There was a great noise made when it was found out that the beautiful Arabian horse had been stolen. The young prince was ready to tear his hair, so great was his disappointment. He offered a large sum of money to any one who would recover the horse. When the excitement was at its height the woman mentioned to some of the

mission as second licutenant in the royal footguards. It is an amusing sight when the regiment turns out on any special occasion to see the crown prince and Prince Eitel Fritz in full regulation uniform marching bravely along

would do. He had a very wise look as he bowed to the king and to the prince.
"'Who are you?' the king asked with a hat were a novelty of absorbing interest and own.
"'A poor pilgrim, your majesty. Nothing new toy.
Shortly after this the court chaplain, who

is a great favorite with the emperor, was summoned to a special audience at the palace. He were on the occasion a brand new silk hat, which he leat with his overcoat in the anteroom. When he was about to leave the antercom. When he was about to leave his hat had disappeared, and a long search failed to reveal its whereabouts. It occurred to the emperor that the children, who were in an adjoining apartment, had been preter-naturally quiet for the past half hour. They were found standing in an awed circle around the ruins of the chaplain's nat, which lay on the floor in a shapeless mass. The consterna-tion on the childish faces was unmistakably sight. Then he said:

"The horse has on a blanket woven on a Russian loom. I see! A dapple gray with milk-white mane and tail."

"That's the horse!" cried the prince; where is he?"

"That's the?" concluded. "We wanted to make it lie flat like the other, so that the Herr Pfarrer could carry it under his arm."

The emperor insisted upon the boys presenting the minister with a new head cover-

ing, but the later asked permission to carry away the ruined article, which he still keeps as a souvenir. When the present emperor ascended the throne, Prince Frederick Wilhelm's head was



BOWING HER OUT. ompletely turned by the dizzy height of his new position as crown prince. He began to lord it over his younger brothers in the most masterful fashion and when they were alone insisted on their waiting on him with the most absolute submission and addressing him as "your royal highness." So much did he enjoy this new amusement that the lives of the other boys were fast becoming a burden to them. He was at last caught in the act by his father. A sharp and severe rebuke subdued the spirit of young hopeful for a

But a week later it broke out afresh. Driving "Unter den Linden" one afterneon with his duenna-Countess-he suddenly manded her to take the front seat. "I do not like to sit with my back to the

horses," she expostulated.
"I am sorry, madam, but I must insist. It is not proper for any one not of royal birth to occupy the same seat with the future emperor of Germany."

After vain remonstrances the old counters who was determined not to yield, said she would prefer returning to the palace on foot. The little prince instantly stopped the car-riage and ordered the footman to let down steps. "I hope you will enjoy your walk, madam,

he remarked, ceremoniously to the irate old lady and continued his drive in solitary state. On his return to the palace, although he ve known what awaited him received a message summoning him to his father's study with perfect calmness and marched into the emperor's presence with his head erect. What passed during that inte view is not known, but the sounds that issued from the room closely resembled those attendant on a good old fashioned thrashing. Th precocious young prince has not since at tempted to assert his royal authority.

Prince Frederick Wilhelm, who is now 12 years of age, is a miniature reproduction of his father, in character as well as appearance. He is extremely determined and self-reliant for his years, fond of study, inclined to be imperious, a great observer of all forms of eliquette and passionately fond of every etiquette and passionately fond of every-thing relating to military life. Eitel Fritz the second boy, is a strikingly beautiful child and in many ways the antithesis of his brother. Although wonderfully bright and quick-witted, he detests books and regards education an unnecessary adjunct to the life of a small boy. He has the face of an angel and is possessed of the very demon of childish mischief. He is a great admirer of pretty women and his charmingly winning makes him an immense favorite with them. His chivalrous devotion to his mother, whom he fairly idolizes, is the prettiest

imaginable "How dare you say that all men and women are sinners?" he said indignantly one day to the court chaplain, after listening to ne of his sermons. "Mamma is a woma and she could not sin if she tried to. The other boys of the emperor are still too cter. As models of health and perfect physical development the six little prince remarkable, and however different their di-

positions may be, there is at least one point n which they all agree, their love and admiration for their baby sister, whose advent they had prayed for so long.

PRATTLE OF THE YOUNGSTERS.

One of the favorite winter games of the small boy who lives along the Hudson, says Harper's Drawer, is "jumping laddie-cakes. This sport reaches its height just as the ice in the river is breaking up, and when the creat cakes go floating up and down with the tide a dozen or more youngsters may be seen running from one cake to another and someimes making really dangerous leaps. One day a boy, apparently about 9 years

old, was to be seen standing on a cake which was rocking in a somewhat alarming manner and the little fellow was crying in a frightened sort of way. "What's the matter?" called a passer-by

from the shore. And then came the sobbing answer: afraid diss cake'll turn over, an' if I get drowned me mother'll lick me."

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Wise Father-Johnny, when I was your age I never let a new year pass without forming a new and righteous resolution, to which I lived as un alterably as the law of gravitation-

Johnny-Oh'm! "Yes, sonny; on the 1st day of January I picked out some great sin to shun; some mistake to avoid; some line of righteousness Johnny-Y-e-s!

"Now, has my little man followed a worthy xample?" Johnny (haltingly)-Y-yes'r-"Ah, wise son, what maketh a glad father Vhat is your resolve?

Johnny-I-I-re-solved that-"Fer this year, I---" "Well, well? 'Won't-"Won't what, darling? Speak out! counce the evil-

"Believe more'n half I hear!" The parent sat and thought long after ohnny had gone to bed. Day after day the little boy had gone

the postoffice and found box No. 67 empty while the boxes on either side of it were always full, relates the Chicago Tribune. One morning he went around to the side win low and called out to the postmaster: "Say, Mr. Leeper!" "Well, Johnny," said the postmaster.
"My paw voted for Cleveland. Did you

cnow that " "I presume he did, Johnny."
"Well, I'm goin' to write to Mr. Cleveland an' tell him you've give my paw a box that hain't never got no letters in it?"

is the son of a man who works in a coal yard, "William," said the teacher, "how many

The smallest boy was silent. "Why, that's a very easy question, Will-"Yea'm. I know it's easy. But, please, ma'am, am I supposed to be buying the coal

"Won't you have another piece of pie, Mr. Won't you have another piece of pie, Mr. Claverly?" asked Tommy,
"Thank you, Tommy," replied Mr. Claverly, "it's very kind of you."
"Oh, that's all right," returned Tommy, with energy. "I'm a-lookin' out for myself too. Ma said if it was necessary to cut another pie. I could have two pieces,'

or selling it?"

A MORNING BATH IN MAUL

Hawalian Gazette.

From cloth of gold of eastern looms, And whirl and glare of city rooms. She fled away to woodland blooms. In softly swaying holoku. Her bare feetswet with morning. She strayed upon the hills she knew; She climbed among the waterfalls Where streamlet unto streamlet calis Amid the somber canon walls. And at some placid pool between Where forest trees together lean, Making untaught & perfect screen, She stayed and istened for some sound Of man or beast that, lingering 'round, Might trespass on her chosen ground. The oos sang their roundelay; An liwa flashed a crimson ray Athwart the shadows of the day; A lizard rustled in the sod, The bamboo swayed its slender rod, None saw her but the birds and—God. Like an expectant chrysalis, She shed her clothes as things amiss And radiant stood for winds to kiss; She shook her dark hair to the breeze, And so arrayed unto her knees. She stole among the whispering trees and climbed among the rocks that lie in primal masonry on high. And stood outlined against the sky. The sun shone on her body fair, The trade winds frolicked with her hair; All nature did her homage there. And she there standing in the sun Was with all other nature one, And felt its currents through her run. Too soon, alast in sinuous grace. She ran with swiftly flying pace, And like a meteor in its flight, Or unsheathed saber bright, Bawallan Gazette. And like a nicteor in its flight, Or unsheathed saber bright, She flashed one moment in the light, And then in watery eclipse, From velvet toes to finger tips, Went out that sweet apocalypse! WHY WE SHOULD BE HAPPY.

Globe-Democrat. We have 175,441 miles of railroad track. Less than one-half of our farms are mort-In 1894, 7,527,211 bales of cotton were raised

and packed. The parents of this country are blessed with 22 447 392 children. American sheep last year grew wool to the

extent of 307,100,000 pounds. The farm lands of this country are estinated to be worth \$13,279,252,649. The real and personal property in this coun ry is assessed at \$17,139,903,495.

The fishermen along our coasts and in our waters catch \$45,000,0000 worth of fish every We have not a debt of \$6,000,000,000, like France, nor yet of £587,000,000, like England. Our 451 colleges have an income of \$14,601,-

934, and funds vested or available of \$94,500, Our savings banks have \$1,739,006,705 de our people.

Between the years 1849 and 1894 the silver ines of this country have yielded \$1,151,817, 575 of silver.

The valuation of the labor of our hens in eggs and spring chickens is every year estimated at \$200,000,000. There are enrolled in the public schools o

country 13,484,572 pupils, who are taught by 373,210 teachers. Over and above the cheese which goes own our own throats, there are manufactured

82,000,000 pounds for export. Our working men of every class are paid rom one-fourth to one-half more wages than those of similar employments in Europe. Between the year 1849, the date of the dis

this country produced \$1,939,300,000 of gold There were last year 216,017 subscribers to the telephones, and helloing was done on an average of 100 times a day by each subscriber It does not cost us several millions of dol lars a year to keep up a court and a lot o princes in order to maintain the dignity of the nation.

There are 13,230,468 men of military age nd every one ready to take up arms against any foreign foe who might threaten ou Instruction in the art and science of keep

dental colleges, which are attended by 2,855 students. Our citizens can live at any altitude they

ng our teath in order is given in twenty-nine

choose, from the sea level in New York to 10,000 feet above the sea in the towns of the Rocky mountains. There is not likely to be any lack of druggists in the near future, for this country

boasts of thirty-one schools of pharmacy with 3,394 students. Our standing army is less than 25,000 men, and not 546,000. like that of Germany: of 567,000, like that of France; or 1,800,000, like that of Russia.

There are in our country 142 theological schools in which doctrines of a greater or less degree of orthodoxy are instilled in the minds of 7,836 students.

Our people have sufficient inventive ability out 25,000 patents a year on contrivances they bring to a greater or less degree of perfection. The youth of our country have 451 col

leges from which to choose when they need an education; in these institutions there ar 10,247 teachers and 140,053 students. There are floating about in the pockets of our people or hoarded in banks, safety de-posit vaults and old stockings, \$661,000,000 of

gold and \$624,000,000 of silver. Our people are so good humored that the consumption of 1,207,731,908 gallons of beer and wine every year is required in order to

give proper tone to their merriment. There are 4,712,622 people engaged in man ufacturing industries of various kinds, re-ceiving every year \$2,283,216,529 in wages

and manufacturing goods worth \$9,372,437 We have in our broad land 4,564,641 farms

ntaining 623,218,619 acres, of which 357, \$16,755 are, with more or less industry and skill, cultivated by the rural population. We pay to the soldiers who saved the union \$141,000,000 a year in pensi ns, and still have enough to run the government and dis-

burse liberal salaries among the office hold-The health of our people is not apt suffer in the future from lack of medical at-tendance, for the ninety-four medical schools of this country are now attended by 16,130

students. The legal fraternity of this country is kep up to the full working strength by sixty- So ostensibly are the secretaries of senators, two law schools, with 6,776 students, so that But just at the end of a session of congress need be at a loss for a lawyer whe ho wants one.

Our territory is not distributed over the whole earth like that of Great Britain, and we have no need to take a cold sweat whenever we hear that anybody else is fitting ou a warship to sail for foreign ports. While there are 19,205,228 married people in this country, there are 19,945,576 more, who, though of marriageable age, have managed in some way to evade the matri-

monial noose and remain in single blessed

There are church sittings provided for service. We are able not only to support ourselves

but a thousand or so foreign actors, singers,

that may be afflicted with any ailment com-

PERQUISITES ON THE SIDE

Some of the Good Things Congressmen Enjoy at Public Expense.

CONCERTED RAID ON THE TREASURY

Postage and Private Secretaries, Barbers and Baths, Pocket Knives and Corkscrews, Mileage and Stationery Swell His Income.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.-Having reached out their hands and taken possession of the postal service, the next thing the members of the house of representatives will do probably is to demand that the government supply private offices to all of them as it does to the members of the United States senate. A midday luncheon to be paid for out of the contingent fund will probably be the next privilege taken; and then an appropriation bill will be proposed for the purpose of supplying private carriages to everyin congress for the transaction of "official business." It is purely for the transaction of "official business" that the franking privilege is extended to congress-

When the law granting the franking privilege to congressmen was repealed in 1873 congress appropriated \$125 a year for each member of congress to pay for "stationery" and it was distinctly understood when this was done that the amount appropriated was to pay the cost of correspondence on official business. In other words, it was estimated that the legitimate use of the franking privilege would save a congressman not more than \$125 a year, and rather than trust to to use that privilege legiticongressmen mately the government gave each of them the maximum amount which official corre-spondence would cost. Instead of being used directly for this purpose the stationery money is spent for many other things, and the members of congress complain that the money paid for stamps to carry on official correspondence was paid out of their own pockets. Thus the stationery money has become merely one of the perquisites of a congressman. He draws his \$125 a year or spends it in the stationery room for supplies or trinkets at his pleasure. Some of it GOES FOR CORKSCREWS.

some for pocket-knives. It is a pleasant thing for a congressman to step into the stationery room of the house with a constituent and tell the visitor to pick out the finest knife in sight. The government pays for it; but it helps to make votes. Now that the postage on official letters is to be paid by the government direct the congress-men may think still more securely that the stationery money is his to spend as he pleases. It costs the government \$44,590 to supply the membership of the house alone with so-called "stationery." A glance through one of the annual reports of the secretary of the senate will show for what purpose much of this money is used. Here are ten dozen corkscrews purchased for the senate stationery room at one time. Here are forty-two dozen penknives and half as many pairs of scissors. Here are dies engraved and paper stamped-doubtless with some senator's crest. Here are subscriptions to magazines and newspapers. At Christmas time the stationery rooms always keep on hand a heavy stock of fine goods for Christmas presents and many of them are bought by senators out of their stationery allowance. Many of the members of both house and senate "commute" their stationery money—that is, they draw it in cash and spend it as they please. One congressman from a southern state, who came to Washington a few years ago so poor that he could hardly pay his railroad fare to the capital, boasted before he returned home at the end f his term that he had lived on the \$250 ance. His salary of \$5,000 a year for the house and walked to and from the capitol every day. At the end of his term he bought at a bargain one of the finest properties in his state and he is living on it today, He was a comparatively well-to-do man. pauper almost when he came to congress.

This mileage is another perquisite which members of congress enjoy. It costs the government \$120,000 a year for the members of the house alone estensibly for railroad fare Very little of the amount goes to the railroad vever. Will John M. Thurston, the newly lected senator from Nebraska, pay his fare o Washington? He will not. His pocket is full of railroad annuals. Will Mr. Thurston then return to the government the amoun appropriated to pay his railroad expenses to and from the capital? Not if he is like other cenators and members of congress in the lower house. He will travel on his passes and put his mileage money in his pocket. And if a special session of congress is called the law providing that mileage shall be paid only for attendance on the regular sessions of congress). Mr. Thurston will probably vote extra mileage to himself, if possible, just as the members of the two houses in the present congress did. I assume that Mr. Thur ston is no better and no worse than the men

who are now members of the senate and The rate of mileage paid to members of congress is abourd. It is not so great as it used to be, for before the days each congressman received a full day's pay (\$8) for each twenty miles traveled in going to Washington and returning to his home Now the mileage paid is 10 cents a mile each way, figuring the distance according to the nearest route usually traveled. Railroad rates for long distances nowadays are mor nearly two cents a mile than 10 cents. I could not cost a California member more than \$175 for the round trip from San Francisco t Washington; yet the California member re ceives \$600 mileage to add to his salary. Un der the old system though he would have re seived a great deal more. It took a membe six weeks to reach Washington from Providence, R. I., at the beginning of the century and all of that time he was receiving \$3 day for traveling expenses. At this rate mileage of a California member would have

been nearly \$4,000.
THE MATTER OF SECRETARIES. Senators have always been a little ahead of the members of the house in obtaining erquisites. The average member does no stay in Washington long enough to know what he wants. The average senator is here for six years at least, and he makes the most of his time. Senitors have had private score taries for many years, while members of the house have had them but a short time. It fact, there was a fight year after year in th appropriation committee of the house over th em inserted by the senate in the appropriation bill providing salaries for secretaries Members kicked stubbornly against this "ex travagance." Now they cannot afford to criticise the senators, for they have gone int similar extravagance on their own account Just now the private secretaries of members are employed for the session of congress only one senator after another pops up in the senate with a proposition to "investigate" some thing during the recess; and the senators olemnly vote for the investigation by that particular senator's committee. The commit-tee never meets during the recess, and the "investigation" is merely an excuse to con-tinue the salary of the committee clerk, who is the senator's private secretary. Usually the private secretary is the senator's son, and so the salary of the office is kept in the

SENATORIAL OFFICES There is another perquisite of senators with which the members of the house have nearly two-thirds of our population, whereas the ecclesiastical authorities estimate that sittings for one-third of a community are generally more than are required at any one not caught up yet. The senators some were entitled to offices, too. So the senat-tacked on an appropriation bill an item for the purchase of the Maltby building, dancers, magicians and the like, who every winter flock to our aboves for the double purpose of amusing us and filling their own pockets. Our horses and cows need not suffer save through negligence or inattention, for the seven veterinary colleges of this country have 564 students, who are supposed on graduating to be still to diagnose the condition of any horse, cow or other animal that may be still the still that may be still the supposed of New York was chairman of the committee of New York was chairman of the committee. on the executive departments and Mr. Aldrich was chairman of the rules com-

mittee they had two rooms fitted up for themselves in the capitol terrace with such elegance that they spent all of the appropriation intended for the entire terrace on the senate side. There is a building opposite the house wing of the capitol—the gray stone building once owned by General Ben Butler—which belongs to the government, in which the house will some day establish private offices for its members. It will take more space than this building will afford, however, to make separate business apartments for all of the 356 members of the house.

BOUQUETS AND BATHS. The habit of "throwing bouquets at them-selves," to use a stage phrase, is by no means new to members or senators. Spendmeans new to members or senators. Spending the public funds for their personal comfort and convenience is quite an old habit with them. They have their own barber shops, supported at public expense, and there are very handsome marble bath rooms at each end of the capitol for the use of senators and members of the house. The restaurants are not yet from to members and taurants are not yet free to members, and perhaps that is the reason Mr. Allen made so vicious an attack on the senate restaurant not long ago. But if the senators do no make the government pay for their food they got at one time their supply of whisky for use during the sessions of the senate at the public expense. It was never charged as whisky in the accounts. hose days they did occasionally call a spadspade, however, and on one of the funeral excursions taken at the public expense fifty years ago there is a record of wines and liquors bought in great profusion on the journey. Refreshments of this character

journey. Refreshments of this character are not lacking when a congressional committee attends a funeral today.

During the summer season the senate is supplied with Appollinaris lemonade at public expense, and a great many barrels of mineral water and a great many hundred pounds of sugar are used at each summer session in the effort to make life in the hot senate chamber endurable. The house has not ventured on this extravagance yet. But gradually the feeling on the question of expending public funds for personal bene fit is growing less aggressive in the house. And it may not be many years before the representatives of the people will demand that the government furnish each of them a house and stable and possibly a carriag at public expense.

GEORGE GRANTHAM BAIN.

How Ams Put Up Preserves.

No matter how orderly and systematic the housekeeper, when preserves are to be made great excitement prevails in the kitchen. there is a scouring of brass kettles, a westing f bowls, and all hands are set to work peel ing the fruit, or taking out the stones-if it has stones-with a quill, weighing, and stirring, and skimming the pot, and finally dip ping the steaming lusclous fruit out tenderly placing it in the jar, labeling these, and car ying them into a dark cupboards. The tiny insignificant ant, to whom Solomo

eferred us to learn wisdom, makes no such do over her winter stores. She is very much eleverer than a huma: being, for she simply walks quietly into the granary, touches the great heaps of seeds and grains, that the diligent workers have pu away, with her quivering antennae, and the deed is accomplished. What this queer litt's creature has done is this; she has put a drop of fermic acid, as it is called, upon each of the grains, which arrests the pr. cess of ge m' nation, and consequently the food in thes underground pantries may keep for years without sprouting. It is the same substance which the busy little bee introduces into his honey, dropping a tiny bit of this poison into

he honeycomb from the end of his sting. The famous naturalist, Moggridge, repeat edly observed that when the ants were pre vented from reaching their granaries the seeds began to sprout, and that this also happened when they abandoned their nests. It was inferred that these insects possessed the means of suspending the action without destroying the vitality of the grain and the principle of life hidden in the sand; and now it has been proved that this strange power lies in the formic acid just mentioned. A German scientist went so far as to suggest in 1877 the us of it to preserving fruit for human households One naturalist relates that a kind of Indian ant collects large stores of grass and seeds, of the stationery money which the government gave him, added to his mileage allow-stock within the granaries to dry it; for it seems the excessive moisture destroys the preservative power of this gold. Another tribe two years he saved. He lived during the session of congress in a cheap boarding of ants which lays up immense quantities of individuals are required to carry a single They move in separate rows, over grain. rough and smooth ground, up and down steps often traveling hundreds of yards to place their booty in the common storehouse, wher it is preserved according to the ESTHER SINGLETON.

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