

THE WHITE HOUSE, OLD AND NEW. Changes and Improvements in the Old Rattle Trap Seat of Government.

MRS. HARRISON'S TASTE.

Hard Work to Get Appropriations to Make a Fit Home for the Greatest of All Rulers.

On the 17th of July, 1872, the first plans for the White House were submitted to the United States Commissioners at Washington. It had been agreed that the Commissioners should give a premium of \$100 to the architect who should furnish the best plan for a President's house. This premium was given to Mr. James Hoban, of Charleston, S. C. On the next day, July 18, 1872, the following "certificate" was published in the city of Washington.

"James Hoban's plan of the palace being approved by the President he is entitled to the reward promised and chooses a gold medal of eight



NEW WHITE HOUSE.

or ten guineas' value and the balance in money. James Hoban is hereby retained in the public service. He is to make the drawings and superintend the execution of his plan of the palace for which he will receive 300 guinea a year."

It was not until 1807, fifteen years later, that the first appropriation was made for furnishing the White House, and then only the paltry sum of \$18,000. There were at that time but five habitable rooms in the White House. In 1814 the interior of the building was destroyed by fire, and it was on this occasion that "Dolly Madison" distinguished herself by cutting from the frame the portrait of Washington. "There was no time to take out the tacks," said this vivacious lady, "and it had to be saved, you know."

During 1817 and 1818 the interior of the White House was partly restored, and in 1823 the south portico was added. Up to this time the structure had cost the government something like \$300,000; since that time, including the periodical freshenings of paint, upholstery, bills, &c., the entire expenditure footed up nearly a million.

There has scarcely been an administration during which the family of the President have not found themselves greatly inconvenienced. During the reign of the Tylers, with their broad-gauged Virginia hospitality, some very amusing stories are told of their attempts to stow away the numerous friends whom they invited.

A ROYAL VISITOR.

Everybody remembers the first and only visit of the Prince of Wales, who was invited to Washington in 1860. When the royal party arrived here the President was forced to divide them up, giving some of them quarters with the British Minister. The President himself during their stay slept in one of the anterooms. During the Hayes administration beds were put up almost every night in the rooms which were used during the day for offices. The room which is now the family sitting room was used as such for the first time during the Hayes administration. It had been the President's office, and when President Arthur came he fitted it up again for the same use. At this time the south end of the hall was curtained off and furnished for the private sitting room.

Of the thirteen apartments on the second floor of the White House six of them are used for offices and anterooms and two for dressing rooms, leaving but five bed chambers. When President and Mrs. Harrison took possession of the White House it required a deal of ingenuity to dispose of the personnel of their household. There is only one room that can possibly be used as a guest chamber, and therefore when guests are invited there can be but two at a time, and they must be given the same room. It is not until the succeeding guests may be accommodated.

Mrs. Harrison came to the conclusion that a crisis had come in the family economy of the Executive Mansion, and in order to meet it she set her busy brain at work, and the result has been the evolution of a somewhat elaborate plan for the first expressed her views to Colonel John M. Wilson, U. S. A., engineer in charge of public buildings and grounds. Mrs. Harrison spoke very clearly on the subject, showing particular regard for the lack of privacy for the ladies of the President's family, the want of household conveniences and the inadequate accommodations for the reception of guests at State hospitalities which the President is expected to give. Afterward with the assistance of Mr. Fred D. Owen, who had supplemented the plan of the architect by a preliminary architectural drawing by extensive travels in England and on the continent, her views upon the extension of the building were set forth in a preliminary architectural drawing being made. From this an architect has fashioned ready for the builder a home for the President, classic in style and republican in simplicity, yet if carried out it will be without a rival in the world as an executive residence.

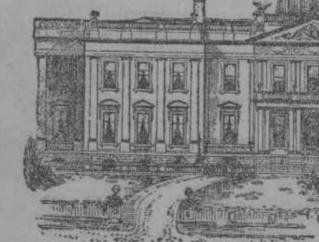
The plan of the building and the interior, as represented in the Herald today, are taken from a beautiful album of twelve studies, executed in India ink by Mr. Owen and presented to Mrs. Harrison.

MRS. HARRISON'S PLAN.

The principal feature which Mrs. Harrison has followed in her plan of construction is the preservation of the original building exactly as it is, with all its stately simplicity and historic interest untouched. The addition will be wings on the east and west attached to the present building by arched colonnades and connected on the north by a structure of glass and iron. The present style of the building, which is known as the Colonial style, will be preserved in the extension.

The ground plan of the interior, as represented, shows a wide promenade, which extends entirely around the building and through the conservatory.

Mrs. Harrison's plan for the conservatory is



OFFICIAL VIEW.

upon quite a large scale, something after the manner of the Emperor's winter garden in Russia. It is to be on the south front of the building in the form of an ellipse, an immense structure of glass and iron, the center of which will be a spacious conservatory with the famous Victoria regia in the center. In the colonnades on the northwest and northeast will be the palm houses. These gardens will be entered from the eastern or west wing. In the east are formed by the elliptical shape of the conservatory will be a large court, thus giving plenty of air and light to all the rooms in the mansion.

It has been suggested that the building of this conservatory will shut out the present magnificent view of the Potomac and public buildings from the south windows. Mrs. Harrison says that the view should not be obstructed in the least, as the ground on that side of the house slopes down to the river. The official wing which is to be attached to the west end of the old mansion will contain a grand reception hall, with the parlors for Senators and Representatives, reception and retiring rooms, will occupy the first floor.

On the second floor will be the offices for the

President, his secretary and executive clerks and stenographers. The cabinet room will also be on the second floor.

The general offices will allow the President's family six additional rooms for private use.

THE ART GALLERY. The east, or narrow wing, is to be, according to Mrs. Harrison's plan, a museum and art gallery. At present there is no place, either in the parlors or the hallways, for any additional portraits save one, that of President Cleveland. Mrs. Harrison's idea is that this national art gallery shall contain not only the portraits of all the Presidents and their families, but also the portraits of Senators, Representatives or other officials who have distinguished themselves, including generals in the army and admirals in the navy. There will be an opportunity, should any one desire, for the presentation of works of art which are produced by the succeeding generations. Mrs. Harrison has contributed two water colors—one of them a scene on the Pacific coast at Cliff House, San Francisco, by E. T. Tait, and the other a view from the New England coast, by James Henry Moser.

Mrs. Harrison further suggests that in this national wing could be preserved furnishings of the White House which may be removed from time to time. In her eyes it is little less than vandalism that the furnishings of the White House should have been put up at public auction and bought by relic hunters, or worse still, by people who have no appreciation whatever of them. When Mrs. Harrison came to the White House she went from carpet to collar searching for old pieces of furniture and the china and silver of previous administrations. Down in the cellar, badly broken and defaced, she found seven of the rosewood chairs which at one time stood in the state dining room. These were repaired, upholstered in pale green brocade and placed in the President's private parlor. Downstairs in the hallway is a tall china vase, holding a pot of flowers. This, also, Mrs. Harrison found in the cellar, broken into several pieces. There are a few pieces of silver still in existence, some of them dating as far back as the time of President Jackson.

Mrs. Harrison suggests that a large, handsome cabinet be placed in the state dining room, to which each family that occupies the White House shall

contribute at least two pieces of china, marked with the name and date of the administration.

The repairs which have been made since Mrs. Harrison became mistress of the Executive Mansion are certainly a very great addition. The floor has been taken up, and the four doors have been taken up, for under the external floor were three others which were inhabited by succeeding generations of cockroaches. Mrs. Harrison says that it is not in the least exaggeration to state that there were millions of them.

The present artistic furnishing of the Blue Parlor has been entirely under Mrs. Harrison's supervision, and she says with some pride that nothing has been thrown away. The curtains which were in that room have been utilized for the sleeping rooms upstairs, and those which were in the East Parlor have been placed in the President's private sitting room. The entire expenditure for Mrs. Harrison's furnishings has been but \$12,000.

In the center of the large court, which will be enclosed by the Executive Mansion, the wings and conservatory, it is proposed to place a memorial fountain, representing allegorically the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, and to perpetuate the facts that on October 14, 1492, the great navigator passed his first day on the soil of the New World, and on October 13, 1793—three centuries after the discovery of the New World, the Executive Mansion was laid. It is Mrs. Harrison's wish to complete this historical sequence of the

centuries by having the extension of the Executive Mansion facilitated so far that some memorial celebration or dedication may take place on October 13, 1891.

At present the plans have not even been submitted to Congress. A number of prominent Congressmen and Senators have examined them and expressed their opinion that they were perfect in detail, offering no criticism whatever. No one can accuse Mrs. Harrison of selfishness in the matter, because if the plans were to be submitted only to the present session and adopted it would be at least another year before an appropriation could be made to carry out the plan. It is estimated that the rebuilding of the White House, as proposed by Mrs. Harrison, when complete will cost \$700,000.

A SURPRISED YOUNG MAN.

SHE SAID "ONLY A MINUTE," BUT HAS NOT RETURNED YET.

A little episode took place the other day at a certain hotel on upper Broadway that caused considerable astonishment and no little amusement to the onlookers. In a very short space of time the four emotions—love, anger, fear and jealousy—were distinctly manifested.

A certain gentleman, well known in New York

for his helplessness, the few earnest lines I could write would, I fear, multiply to a wearisome length.

The need is so constantly brought to my notice and consideration that it is hard to keep my pen within limits where I and the ear of earnest sympathizers in this cause.

Should you at any time start a subscription fund for this object, please permit me the privilege of donating \$200, with the promise of future aid and cooperation (without publication).

Yours very truly,

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

The matter of establishing a hospice or home for lost and indigent dogs and other pet animals, as suggested in your columns, is a move in the right direction, and will doubtless meet with the necessary support, as several parties of means to do so have expressed their willingness to donate in favor of such an institution, and who, I trust, will speedily respond to the HERALD's call.

The sooner this undertaking is set about the better to prevent, or, possibly, the repetition of the heartrending scenes daily occurring in our streets, caused by some child or woman who is frantically attempting to save her pet, who has suddenly been seized upon by a gang of ruffians and ruthlessly thrown into a pen on wheels among sick and mangled others, again of health and strength and ready for a fight.

Now, just stop and think for one moment the results of a confinement in such a den for hours to any high bred dog, whose temperaments, as you may say, is just as sensitive as our own. We all know there are people who hate dogs and

hate everything but themselves; while there are others who love both children and dogs, and love them dearly. And I know there are people who attend to the duties that a child was grabbed up in the same manner the agony to a mother could not be more intense. I personally know here a mother who has been driven into despair, children into fits and other very serious results to women all on account of the dog caught in this suffering to her child, this barbarous cruelty to the dog, is so unexcusable for all so unnecessary, and these scenes speak of are not yearly ones, nor monthly, nor weekly, but daily, I might say hourly, occurring in this our city of New York, our country's metropolis.

Just think, the city pays forty cents each for every dog brought to the pound. This result is provided then with a badge; a sub-committee is made with any number, or three who may come along, probably of five to twenty cents for every dog they bring to the wagon. The consequences is from four to eight of these gentlemen who follow every wagon, and knock a man down for fifty cents in broad daylight and take the chances from the table and into a minute with a athletic circles and elsewhere, had just seated himself at a table in the public room with a very pretty and piquant young woman as his wife—and this lady, by the way, is not unknown in a certain musical circle.

The system had been placed on the table, the wife brought and the glasses filled, when a manly form darkened the door. The lady was raising the glass to her lips and was making some pleasant remark to her companion, when her eye fell on the affords many form. It was a case of "was just now."

She absolutely couldn't speak or move for a moment. Then, uttering an indistinct exclamation, she rose from the table and went up to the manly form, and together they left the room and dark less spoke very emphatically to each other. Meanwhile the deserted young man sat awaiting her return, at the table, and was making some pleasant remark to her companion, when her eye fell on the affords many form. It was a case of "was just now."

Well, he sat and sat, and twirled his mustache, slipping his nose and grew grimmer and grimmer, and when the specter of the manly form came looking blacker than a thunder cloud. A few minutes later a waiter said in reply to a question I put him, "Yes, he has been here since, but he generally comes alone now."

HELP THE DOGS.

Great Interest Excited by the Herald's Proposition to Found a Suitable Asylum.

FRIENDS TO THE RESCUE

Public Sentiment Demands That a Proper Place of Refuge Be Provided.

Possibly no reform ever advocated and advanced by the HERALD has received such spontaneous and substantial sympathy from all people as the proposition to do away with the city pound, the licensed treatment of stray and homeless dogs, the licensed industry of thieving dog catchers and to establish instead a dog hospice modeled after the best Paris and London patterns.

Letters on the subject, propositions, advice, offers of aid and bitter complaints, too, are received daily at this office.

Indeed, so great has become the public agitation over this matter of providing for injured, ill, abandoned or homeless dogs that it is necessary to proceed cautiously and with due regard to the most advantageous, economic and scientific methods.

Pure pity—that abhorrence of pain, misery and wretchedness in a dumb brute—is a notable trait of New Yorkers. No such good cause has ever been properly established without instant and generous aid.

But pure pity often overdoes the bounds of reason. The best way to treat the dog question is to have it in the city pound, the licensed treatment of stray and homeless dogs, the licensed industry of thieving dog catchers and to establish instead a dog hospice modeled after the best Paris and London patterns.

The HERALD is authorized to announce that a conference of gentlemen thoroughly posted and interested will shortly be held, a permanent organization perfected and a subscription list opened for the purpose in view.

In the meantime the following specimens of many letters received are submitted and the HERALD continues to invite the broadest and most intelligent discussion of the subject.

MRS. WHITNEY'S SOUND JUDGMENT.

The HERALD has received from Mrs. William C. Whitney a note to this effect:—

Mrs. Whitney wishes to congratulate the HERALD upon the plan proposed for the establishment of a place where stray and abandoned dogs may be cared for and to also approve the suggestion that the enterprise be placed under the authority of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

A CLINICAL WITNESSING.

President American Spatul Club.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

In response to the opportunity offered for an "expression of my views" on the subject of a hospice

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thieves, officially called dog catchers. They are a disgrace to our civilized community, and the very best way to get rid of them is to give them a sufficient incentive to crime with these fellows.

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:— Mr. Pelham Clinton's letter in a recent Sunday issue advocating the advisability of a "home for stray dogs" as a substitution for that undesirable, pestilential yet lucrative calling of "dog snatching" is a timely and valuable contribution to the question of the proper treatment of the impositions and oppressions to which citizens of this city are so tranquilly submitted. With regard to the present "in-terrogation" to which dogs are subjected, sufficient was said in your Sunday issue. Therefore it is not so much my purpose in addressing you to deplore the harassing and inhuman treatment to which dogs in this city are exposed, as to establish the practicability of adopting Mr. Pelham Clinton's scheme. Few men have enjoyed the opportunities granted me of estimating the infinite value of the "dog snatching" industry, and I am therefore glad to see your suggestion, my intention being stimulated by a regular attendance at shows in England for the past twenty years. During this time I had ample opportunity of observing the "dog snatching" industry in the "Lost Dogs' Home" in London, more especially because the chairman—or, as he would be termed by the "President"—lived within a few minutes' walk from me.

To enter into the details of its management would perhaps be more fitting than the "Home" of the "dog snatching" industry, and I would be more to the purpose now to consider the legal as well as social recognition granted the dogs of this city.

In England I will put on one side the present muzzling orders, as that is temporary, a dog is not only recognized as a dog, but part of its owner's property. It is not only recognized as a dog, but part of its owner's property. It is not only recognized as a dog, but part of its owner's property.

Again, every facility is afforded an owner to be accompanied by his dog by the different means of conveyance. The underground railway, which is the most convenient, a man may take fifty dogs if he choose, and the London and North-western, one of the principal lines, have gone to the extent of building a car for the special benefit of canine passengers, more especially for the unattended. Furthermore, the police assist owners in recovering their dogs, and the "dog snatching" industry is a disgrace to our civilized community, and the very best way to get rid of them is to give them a sufficient incentive to crime with these fellows.

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:— Mr. Pelham Clinton's letter in a recent Sunday issue advocating the advisability of a "home for stray dogs" as a substitution for that undesirable, pestilential yet lucrative calling of "dog snatching" is a timely and valuable contribution to the question of the proper treatment of the impositions and oppressions to which citizens of this city are so tranquilly submitted. With regard to the present "in-terrogation" to which dogs are subjected, sufficient was said in your Sunday issue. Therefore it is not so much my purpose in addressing you to deplore the harassing and inhuman treatment to which dogs in this city are exposed, as to establish the practicability of adopting Mr. Pelham Clinton's scheme.

Few men have enjoyed the opportunities granted me of estimating the infinite value of the "dog snatching" industry, and I am therefore glad to see your suggestion, my intention being stimulated by a regular attendance at shows in England for the past twenty years. During this time I had ample opportunity of observing the "dog snatching" industry in the "Lost Dogs' Home" in London, more especially because the chairman—or, as he would be termed by the "President"—lived within a few minutes' walk from me.

To enter into the details of its management would perhaps be more fitting than the "Home" of the "dog snatching" industry, and I would be more to the purpose now to consider the legal as well as social recognition granted the dogs of this city.

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