

# UNCLE SAM'S HOTEL.

It is the White House and Ben Harrison Keeps It.

A NEW ONE BADLY NEEDED.

Mrs. Harrison Has Four Bedrooms and a Hall for a Parlor.

PEEPS INTO ALL THE APARTMENTS

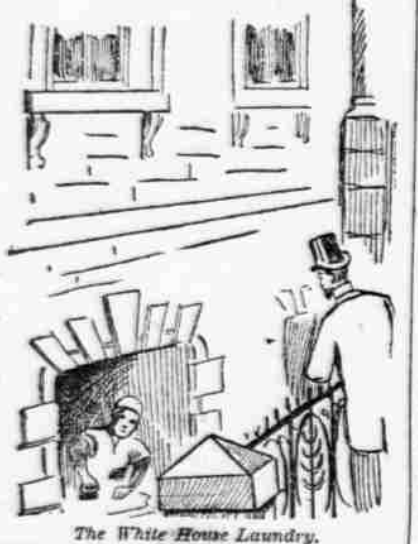
SCORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.

WASHINGTON, March 29.

The White House today is like a big hotel and President Harrison is the landlord. Every man and woman who comes to Washington thinks he has a right to enter his house without knocking. They tramp over his carpets with their muddy boots, ask all sorts of impudent questions of his servants, and the chances are that they carry away a bit of the furniture. Every now and then a piece as big as your hand is clipped out of one of the lace curtains by a relic hunter, and during President Lincoln's time a woman was caught in the very act of cutting the costly curtains of the East room. She cried when she was found out and she was taken up weeping to the President's room. Mr. Lincoln looked at her sorrowfully and told her the best thing she could do was to leave the city. It is the same with the cushions of the furniture, and by no means safe to let strangers move about under the eye of a guide. These guides are the President's attendants, and they have all they can do to keep the crowds out of the most private parts of the house. Not inquisitively visitors want to see the kitchen and all the home life that Mrs. Harrison gets much from a little space on the second floor.

The President's grounds cover many acres, and the White House occupies a third of an acre. It is a long rectangular almost square two-story structure with a wide porch cohering above a floor as big as that of the average two-story house. The porch coherer is upheld by ionic columns as big around as the largest oaks of the forest, and its roof supported by these is of the Grecian order. Around the roof of the White House there is

A MARBLE FENCE about as high as a table, and made of round marble pillars the size of a baseball club. The building has a basement under it and two rows of big rectangular windows look



The White House Laundry.

out of the stories above this. The basement windows are square and the most of them look as though they needed washing. Wide walks lead up in the shape of a half-moon from Pennsylvania avenue to the White House, and you walk half the length of the House before you get to the front door. As you do so you can look right down into the basement, and if your eyes are sharp, about every other day you will see a number of colored girls here with irons in their hands polishing the President's shirts and putting the finishing touches on baby McKee's unmentionables.

If, on leaving the mansion, you walk over toward the State, War and Navy Departments, your nostrils may be saluted with the bog and honey which is being cooked in the President's kitchen, and you may see the President's colored lady chef producing those exquisite dishes which are making the side dinners so famous. It is not half big enough for an establishment of our President's, and it has none of the modern conveniences for keeping dinners warm which the best restaurants of the country contain. There is a big range at one end of the room and there is another little range in the scullery beyond. The cooking utensils are of copper, and the walls are plastered and not tiled. The entire front of the basement of the White House is taken up with kitchen and laundry. The back has a storeroom, a furnace, and—whisper it low in the ear of our Methodist brother—a billiard room.

**BILLIARDS IN THE WHITE HOUSE.** Billiards have been played in the White House ever since the day of John Quincy Adams, and President Arthur could handle a billiard cue equal to Sisson. John Quincy Adams bought the first billiard table that was ever used in the White House, and his extravagance in this respect was made a campaign issue, and he eventually paid for the table out of his own pocket. I don't know that President Harrison plays, but the table is there in the basement, and he can if he will.

Let us look at the first floor of the White House. Guards stand at the doors and a giant Apollo in the shape of Colonel Dismore inspects every man who comes in. The doors are of mahogany and the knobs are as big, almost as the head of a baby. You turn inward and you are in the tiled vestibule, at the back of which there is a wall of mosaic of beautiful stones and colored glass, which reminds one of the jeweled palace of Frederick the Great, at Potsdam. This



Cranks Get in Sometimes.

wall was made by Tiffany. It cost many thousands of dollars, but one old lady who looked at it last week told the guard she was "glad to see President Harrison had become economical, and that he had saved the country money by making a glass wall of old broken bottles, and it's real sorry, too," the old woman said, "and you wouldn't think it home made.

It is here that the Marine Band plays at the President's receptions, but there is nothing home-like about the vestibule. It is so big that you could build an eight-room house inside of it, and 30 men could march

abreast through it without touching their elbows.

**BELOUG TO THE PEOPLE.** Just next to this, at the left, is a hall with stairs leading to the President's office, and on the other side of this hall is the mighty East Room. You never see Mrs. Harrison or any of the family upon these stairs. They are the property of the public, and the ceaseless tread of the countless crowd which besieges the President goes its way up and down these stairs. The East Room belongs to the people. It is always open to visitors, and the only use that President Harrison gets from it is in crowding his entourage into it at a big Presidential reception. It is one of the most beautiful rooms in the world. Its walls are painted in silver and gold, and its ceiling is three times as high as that of an ordinary room. It takes 442 yards of Brussels carpet to cover it, and the velvet into which your feet sink is of the color of Erucaun gold.

The most wonderful thing to me in this room is the chandeliers. Each one of these is made of 6,000 pieces of Bohemian glass and they cost \$5,000 a piece. There are eight massive mirrors, each as big as two billiard tables, set into the walls about the room and when these chandeliers are lighted these mirrors are reflected like diamonds in these mirrors and the scene is indescribably brilliant. Still you might as well furnish a barn or a bowling alley and call it a parlor as to think of using this big room for the living room for the home life of a private family, and if President Harrison wanted it he couldn't get it, for the people have monopolized it by the precedent of generations.

**NOT PARTS OF THE HOME.** It is the same with the Green Room, the Blue Room and the Red Room. They are full of beauties in furniture and hangings, but there is much shut out from the everyday life of the President as the parlor of a New England farmer's wife, which is dusted every day but never used except for company. It is in the Blue Room that President Harrison, with his wife standing beside him, shakes the hands of the multitude at a big reception. The room is oval in shape, finished in the satin, fresco, and plaster, and is about that of a country church. Still it is hardly large enough for this purpose, and when the crowd is out of it it is too big for company.

There are many dining rooms in Washington larger than the State dining room, and I can count on my fingers a dozen which are more suitably furnished. There are none of the conveniences for serving a great dinner, and these \$1,000 feasts which the President gives live to be largely gotten up out of the house and hired waiters have to be brought in to pass the victuals. The dining room used by the family, or the private dining room, is at the right of the vestibule. This has to be turned inside out at every big reception for the table must be removed and shelves be put around the room to hold the hats and coats of the guests. At such receptions the state dining room becomes a ladies' dressing room, and more fuss is made in the Executive Mansion every time the President receives than you make in your own home when your daughters are married.

**A SECOND-CLASS BOARDING HOUSE.** Not long ago there was a mantel bed in the reception room opposite Elijah Hafford's office on the second floor. I passed through this room yesterday and noticed that it was still there, but whether it is used or not I do not know. Think of the President of the United States being compelled to have a wardrobe bed in one of his parlors. It is true no one knows what it is, but it makes one think of the occupant of a second-class boarding house who is trying to keep up appearances and pretending to have a suit of rooms when he gets along with only one.

The living rooms of the President are at the west end of the second floor, and Mrs. Harrison has only four good-sized bedrooms. It takes about a hundred yards of carpet to cover each one of them, and she has turned the lower end of the hall into a sitting room, and the children are using the little private office at the northwest corner of the building where President Arthur used to receive his most intimate friends. There is an elevator leading to this floor, and there are two or three bathrooms huddled together right over the big entrance hall.

The business offices of the White House take up the whole of the eastern portion of the second floor. Entering the big iron



Around the Globe in the Cabinet.

door, you turn to the left and march up a pair of steps about five feet wide. You note that though the carpet is new the tread of the office is well worn off its nap, and at any hour of the morning you may see many noted men of the country on the stairs. They stamp along as though they owned the building and most of them think they do.

**WHERE THE BUSINESS IS DONE.** When you reach the second floor you find that your surroundings are those of a business establishment rather than those of a private residence. Two colored gentlemen stand at guard at the door, and a gray-haired German, short and squat, sits before a little desk as you enter the hall. He is in the corner made by the partition which has been run across the hall to give the President's wife a sitting room, and as he looks at you his back is turned toward the door of man is Sergeant Loeffler. He is the President's messenger, and he has been here for almost a score of years. He is in a measure the watch dog of the President, and he carries all the cards of noted visitors into Mr. Harrison. He has sometimes to deal with cranks in case these pass by the giant form and the eyes of Colonel Dismore below.

Sergeant Loeffler makes about the sixth guard you have passed since entering the White House. You are motioned by him to the left, and turning your eyes you see a couple more of colored guards, one of whom is the watch dog of the private secretary. You go by there into a big reception room which is over the end of the East room, and which is filled with very ordinary furniture. It is here that office seekers cool their heels until the President is ready to receive them, and it is here that Colonel Crook, the cashier of the President, sits. In a little room beyond this there is a telegraph office, and here the President has telephone connections with all of the great departments.

**WHERE THE CABINET MEETS.** The Cabinet room lies between the private secretary's room and the library where President Harrison sits. This room is almost entirely filled with a long dining table, which runs from one end of it to the other. Around this table are nine high-backed chairs, and there are writing materials placed at different stations upon it. There is a big globe in one corner of the room, and it is around this that the President, Secretary Blaine and the other Cabinet members for several administrations, though President Lincoln used to hold his Cabinet meetings in the room now used by Colonel Hallford. The President's office is in the library.

This room is a big oval, requiring 141 yards of velvet Brussels to cover its floor. It has windows looking out upon the Potomac and it is 29 feet wide and 28 feet long. The President's callers are seated on chairs about the room and he usually stands with head bent over as he talks with them. He receives nearly every one who has business with him and he is besieged by a host of Congressmen nearly every day. It is this room which forms his home and his business is always with him. His bedroom is next to it and the ghost of work undone must hover over him as he sleeps.

**NO BUSINESS MAN WOULD STAND IT.** The President of the United States never gets through with his work and there ought to be some arrangement by which he could get away for a certain time during the day from the care of his office. He ought not to have to eat and to sleep, bathed in the perspiration of office-seeking applications and there is no other business man in the United States who would endure the environments of our President.

The attic of the White House might be supposed to furnish some room. It does not. The roof is so low in most places that you cannot stand upright under it. All the light comes from the skylights, and the place is fit for nothing but a lumber room. In it are stored President Harrison's trunks, baby McKee's cast-off clothes and the old furniture of the Executive Mansion. Rats and spiders are about the only inhabitants, and the top of the White House is more like a country garret than the attic of a two-story house covering a quarter of an acre and situated in one of the great cities of the United States.

**FOR ONE OR THE OTHER.** The truth about the matter is that the Executive Mansion would do very well for the private residence of the President or for his office. It will not do for both, and the statesmen appreciate it. In 1882 Senator Morrill had a bill which passed the Senate appropriating \$300,000 to build an extension to the White House, and Mrs. Harrison has said that there ought to be two wings added to it. She would remodel the conservatory, add a hall of painting and statuary, and would leave the present building as it is, sandwiched between the ends of these two wings. In this way the historical associations of the building would be preserved, and Mrs. Harrison's ideas are much better than that of Senator Ingalls, who was in favor of adding a story to the building.

The White House has cost already about \$2,000,000. It took \$300,000 to build it nearly 100 years ago, and more than \$1,700,000 have since been spent upon it. It is full of beauties in the way of furniture and pictures, but it costs us more than \$125,000 a year to pay the President's salary and keep up his establishment.

**FRANK G. CARPENTER.**

**The Ace of Clubs.** See announcement in advertisement on Page 15 of this issue.

*Good morning!*

**Paris Exposition, 1889.**

Pears obtained the only gold medal awarded solely for toilet SOAP in competition with all the world. Highest possible distinction.

**BIJOU THEATER**

Under the Direction of R. M. GULICK & CO.

**WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, MARCH 31,**

MATINEES WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY.

The Romantic Military Melo-Drama,

**THE DRUMMER BOY;**

OR, THE BATTLEFIELD OF SHILOH.

Benefit of Charity Fund General Alex. Hays Post 3, G. A. R.

BEAUTIFUL TABLEAU. STARTLING BATTLE SCENES.

ENTIRELY NEW SCENERY.

100--People on the Stage--100

BIJOU PRICES: 75, 50 and 25c.

RESERVED SEATS.

April 7--Leavitt's Spectacular Attraction, "Spider and Fly."

**COMING AGAIN.**

THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 4

**OTTO HEGNER,**

AT

**OLD CITY HALL**

Tickets at H. Kiebet & Bro., Wood St. Reserved seats \$1 each. Admission 75c. mb30-83

**GRAND OPERA HOUSE**

Benefit

FIRST REGIMENT SELECT KNIGHTS, A. O. U. W.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 2, 1890.

Tickets for sale at Hamilton's, 93 Fifth ave. and Central Hotel, city, and Young & Smith, Federal street, Allegheny. mb30-28

**HARRY WILLIAMS' ACADEMY.**

MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 31.

Matinees, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

**ELLIOTT'S JOLLY VOYAGERS**

EUROPEAN SPECIALTY COMPANY.

And Elliott's New Comedy, called

**OUT OF SIGHT.**

Monday, April 7--THE IRWIN BROS.' BIG SPECIALTY SHOW. mb30-29

**BASEBALL.**

RECREATION PARK, ALLEGHENY

—VERSUS—

EAST END ATHLETICS, ALLEGHENY

—VERSUS—

MCKEESPORT.

Friday and Saturday, April 4 and 5. mb30-25

**GUENTHER'S ORCHY, 17 RA**

Furnishes Music for Concerts, Weddings, Receptions, etc., etc.

Lessons on Flute and Piano, given by PROF. GUENTHER, 410 Wood st. mb30-41-su

**GRAND OPERA HOUSE.**

MR. E. D. WILT, Lessee and Manager.

One Week, Commencing

**MONDAY, MARCH 31.**

Matinees Wednesday and Saturday.

"THE GREATEST FUNMAKERS IN THE WORLD."

JOLLY

**Nellie McHenry**

AND HER FAMOUS

Farce-Comedy Company,

Under the Direction of

**Webster and Maeder,**

In the Cyclone of Mirth and Music, entitled

**GREEN ROOM FUN!**

Written by BRONSON HOWARD, Esq.

One Huge Laugh From Start to Finish.

REGULAR PRICES: 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.

Next Week, London Gaiety Company, in

**FAUST UP TO DATE.**

mb30-30

**SPIDER and FLY.**

3 TROUPES IN ONE 3

1. PANTOMIME.

2. BURLESQUE.

3. VAUDEVILLE.

DAZZLING COSTUMES!

GORGEOUS SCENERY!

Sale of Seats Commences Next Thursday Morning at 9 O'Clock.

BIJOU PRICES: RESERVED SEATS, 75c, 50c, 25c. mb30-7

**HARRIS' THEATER.**

Week Commencing Monday, March 31.

Every Afternoon and Evening.

**HARRY LA MARR**

In the Funniest Play Ever Written,

**WIDOW BEDOTT!**

As Played for 350 Nights in New York City. mb30-28-29

**EXTRA.**

**BIJOU THEATER**

HOLIDAY ATTRACTION, BEGINNING

**MONDAY, APRIL 7,**

The Novelty of the Season,

**SPIDER and FLY.**

3 TROUPES IN ONE 3

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**REMOVAL SALE**

Continued

A short time longer.

**F., K. & CO.**

**REMOVAL SALE**

Continued

A Short Time Longer.

**F., K. & CO.**

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Continued

A Short Time Longer.

**F., K. & CO.**

**REMOVAL SALE**

Continued

A short time longer.

**FRENCH, KENBRICK & CO.,**

616 Smithfield Street, Opposite City Hall.

# OUR GREAT EASTER SALE COMMENCES TO-MORROW,

And it is surprising to us that other dealers in the city sell any clothing to speak of when we offer such advantages to the public in our present gigantic stock. Certainly, no one has bought of us that fails to come again, for we've always stood at the head of the clothing trade of Pittsburgh, there being an indefinable finish to clothing you get from us which is lacking in what you get elsewhere. Not only do we control special designs of our own, but the uniform reliability and incomparable style of our goods has become a proverbial and established fact.

**LIGHT : SPRING : OVERCOATS.**

To pin your faith to every tempting assertion made through the press is simply to grasp at a shadow. So many have the happy faculty of palming off the most inferior goods on account of their cheapness. But if you would lay hold of the substance, and test the virtue of truthful assertions, inspect our present magnificent line of SPRING OVERCOATS, and your appreciation will be complete. We have all textures, all sizes and all colors, with unlimited choice, ranging from \$4 to \$30, with elegant goods from \$10, \$12 to \$15. There is no weight, color or shade we cannot supply you with, and the whole are made with studious care as to style, make-up and finish. Better values were never before offered to the public.

**Confirmation Suits**

IN ENDLESS VARIETY.

As most parents are at this season becoming anxious for the genteel appearance of their sons in attending the important and imposing ceremony of confirmation, we would particularly impress upon you that you will find in our exclusively NEW AND MAMMOTH STOCK OF EASTER CLOTHING everything that fancy can covet or heart desire to attire the rising generation in the most stylish and effective manner. Nor is clothing alone our forte, for we are also showing

CONFIRMATION HATS, CONFIRMATION SHOES AND CONFIRMATION FURNISHINGS,

In precisely the same fashionable styles as found the present season in all the metropolitan centers, while in point of a variety to select from, no retail clothing house in America is displaying a more diversified and larger stock. And, what is still better, we guarantee on every purchase you make from us you will have the satisfaction of a

SAVING OF AT LEAST 25 PER CENT.



You will find our grand and unapproachable bargains in the latest and most stylish Dress and Business Suits stand unequalled in the market. Tailor fitting qualities in our styles, extra care in cut and gentility and fashionable shapes and material are the prevailing points to which we have given attention. Indeed, of our immense and incomparable stock of GENTS' DRESS and BUSINESS SUITS, it is safe to say that we can sell a suit as metropolitan and modern in style as Paris, London or New York clothiers, for our stock is purchased from the same manufacturers. A man who buys his clothing in our establishment may rest assured of being well dressed, for we carry no garment that is not of approved style and thoroughly fashionable in color and texture. Only call and see them and a moment will convince you.

**Our Mammoth Shoe Department**

Never was so abundantly stocked. Let your wants may be what they may, we can meet them—yes, and meet them satisfactorily. Whether you want a shoe at the lowest price or of the very highest grade, for Lady, Gentleman or Child, we have anything and everything you can call for. You will find all the Newest Spring Styles known to Society. We are confident that you'll appreciate our efforts to please you if you only give us a call. We want it to be understood that with every pair of shoes we sell goes the guarantee that the price charged is lower than you can get the same quality of goods for elsewhere, that they will be perfect fitting, and every pair is warranted to give satisfactory wear.

**BRING ALONG THE CHILDREN.**

We have the most durable and natty footwear for them that ever adorned their understandings, and, what is more, such perfect fits, that they will never limp around nor have deformed feet.

**CHARMING EASTER FURNISHINGS.**

We wish it to be distinctly understood that in this department no hand-me-down, old style and shop worn article is to be found, but everything New, Bright and Charming, pre-eminent for its originality and cuteness. Whether in plain or fancy Shirts, Night Shirts, Flannel Shirts or Underwear, we can supply your every need at prices no other house in the city can duplicate. In Neckwear we have the prettiest combination of tints, shades, colors and patterns ever submitted to the fastidious tastes of youth. Gloves and Hosiery in unlimited quantities and at unprecedented prices. As regards Handkerchiefs, we have them by the thousand dozens in every material and price, while our stock of Umbrellas, for Ladies or Gentlemen, no house in Western Pennsylvania can duplicate.

DUING to the large increase in business, during the past season, in our Mail Order Department, we have been compelled to largely extend our facilities for its conduct, hence our patrons can send in their orders by mail just so fast as they please, in the full assurance of experiencing not the least delay or disappointment.

**GUSKY'S,**

300 TO 400

The Most Popular and Only Exclusive One-Price Clothiers in the City.

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Be sure you send for the Easter Number of our ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY. Mailed free to any address sent.

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