QUEER WHITE HOUSE VISITORS.

Oddities of Insane People who Call at the Presidential Mansion.

Every now and then an item is published giving an account of the antics of some crazy person who finds his or her way to the White house. Not half the calls of people of this class at the executive mansion are recorded. The visits are almost the daily rule rather than the exception.

Among these is an old gentleman who lives a short distance out in the country, near Bladensburg. He wears a large soft hat, salt-and-pepper pants, and a short black coat. His eyes are blue and mild, with nothing wild about them, and his hair is gray. He calls regularly once in every two months. He comes in the door solemnly. Being asked what he wants, he replies, "I have come to take my seat." He then tells how he has been regularly elected President and would have come to enter on his duties sooner, but work on his farm prevented his leaving home. The ushers talk to him seriously about the matter, and as a general thing he soon leaves perfectly satisfied.

A man comes down here from Pennsylvania about five times a year. He is about thirty-five years old, and dresses neatly and comfortably. He demands to see the President. The treasury and the White house have been deeded to him, and he wants the possession of both. The last time he called he wore a pair of badly used up shoes, and got slightly noisy. When put outside the door he said: "I will submit this time, as I do not wish to make Hayes houseless; but the next time I come I want no foolishness. I want him to move out promptly. I hate to be so harsh, but my shoes are wearing out, and I must have my rights. Just tell him how the case stands."

A woman from Maine walked in one day, in a dress like that of a Quaker. She stalked into the east room and spreading a large Bible—which she carried under her arm—on one of the window seats announced her text and began in a loud voice to hold forth on the necessity of being born again.

A man from Ohio called a few weeks ago. He had a theory that the world was coming to an end in a few days, if he was not made superintendent of the naval observatory, in view that he might, by his knowledge of astronomy, avert the impending collision of the earth with all the planets. He was promised the position, and left satisfied.

A raw-boned fellow from Maine is seen no more at the White house. He used to be a regular visitor. He would march in every morning, walk up to one of the ushers, and hand him a letter. The letters were addreesed to "R. B. Hayes, from Ohio, President of the United States, U. S. of America, Western Continent, White House, District of Columbia." These letters were always opened, but were such scrawls that no one could read them. This probably suited the man exactly, as all he seemed to want was to deliver the letters promptly at nine every morning.

The "goddess of liberty just stepped down from the dome of the capitol," has already been introduced to the readers of the *Star*. She came back the other week, and being refused admittance to the President's room, threatened to bring down her "reserves." These consisted, she said, of all the statues in the old hall of representatives and that of Columbus in the east front of the capitol, and of the group of the backwoodsman and Indian fighting.

A hard-looking male customer—he was about forty years old—came in one morning. "I am the man," he said in a roar, who closed the rebellion. It is a matter of necessity that I should see the President." He was told that the President did not receive visitors at the White house. He saw every one who called at No. 414 Tenth street. This is the number of the police station on that street. The man went promptly to No. 414 Tenth street and took a seat. After sitting there a while the keeper asked what he wanted. "Oh!" he said, "I have just called to see the President." The keeper took in the situation at a glance, and, saying, "step this way," condncted the visitor into one of the cells. As he turned the key in the lock the man inside said: "If the President comes just show him right in, will you?" "Certainly," said the keeper, and went back to his desk—*Washington Star.*

A Mule Kicks a Can of Nitro-Glycerine.

There was a disastrous and fatal explosion of nitro glycerine and blasting powder at Earlington, Ky., a mining town fifty miles south of Evansville, one night not long ago. The St. Bernard coal company, in whose mines the explosion occurred, have of late begun to use a small quantity of nitro-glycerine with powder for blasting purposes. On the night in question an old colored man was ordered to carry some nitro-glycerine. He went to the magazine, and, after getting a supply, left a can of it sitting by the car-track till he could deliver the charge. While gone a team of empty cars came by, drawn by two mules. One of the mules kicked the can of explosive matter, which instantly exploded, blowing mules, cars and the colored driver into atoms, and filling the passage with *debris* and rubbish of all kinds from the roof. Two seconds later the blasting powder stored in the adjoining room exploded with terrific force. The shocks were distinctly felt at Madisonville, Ky., three miles distant, and were attributed to an earthquake. The wildest confusion prevailed in Earlington, as it was supposed to be an explosion of fire-damp, and there were eighty men in the chambers beyond reach. The whole city turned out, and affrighted and weeping miners' wives, mothers and children made a scene which beggars description. The population gathered at the mouth of the pit and made various attempts to enter, but the volumes of smoke that rolled out prevented, and for an hour the most agonizing suspense prevailed. By that time the miners began to emerge, as the smoke decreased in volume, and the safety of all was announced. Not one was injured, though all sustained some nervous shock. The only deaths were those of the driver and the mules.

From the *debris* of their coal mines France makes annually 700,000 tons of excellent fuel, and Belgium 500,000 tons.

Items of Interest.

"Life is reel," to the spinner.

A paying teller — Edison's phonograph.

There are 948 paper mills in the United States.

Dried apples are used for dessert at all swell parties.

New York car horses on an average last only four years.

To remove paint from door posts, back up against it when it is fresh.

A young man with his first goatee may be said to have a tuft time of it.

Anybody can catch a cold now. The trouble is to let ago again, like the man who caught the bear.

The Brazilian government has granted a privilege to a gentleman for the manufacture of paper from the wild fig tree.

Phosphorescent paper, writing or print on which can be read in the dark, is the substance of a late European invention.

A fellow out West got a sentence of twenty years for stealing horses. That is what might be called an Evarts sentence. It was very long.

More noble horses are to be seen in New York's business streets than in any commercial or political capital of the Christian world.—*Scribner's.*

Mother (noticing her son's greediness) —"George, you should always leave the table feeling that you could eat a little more." Son—"I do, mother."

An obvious improvement on Shakspeare: "Cry havoc, and let loose the cats of war." They will be much more likely to come up to the scratch than dogs will.

Burdette, the *Hawkeye* man, is lecturing on the "Rise and Fall of the Mustache." He gives an illustration of his subject every time he takes a bite out of a pumpkin pie.

It used to be the patchwork quilt, but now it is a feather cloak. This particular feather cloak is in St. Louis, and is composed of 38,961 feathers, furnished by quail, wild duck and prairie chicken. The cost is $500. Cloaks of a feather flock together.

The remains of huge glaciers have been discovered on the east side of Wind river peak, Wyoming Territory, and on the east base of Fremont's peak. Prof. E. V. Hayden thinks that on the west side of Wind river a gigantic glacier once existed eighty miles in length and twelve in breadth.

Intemperance Among Women.

Dr. Stephen Smith, of New York, who has given much thought to the subject, says: Thoughtful medical men frequently express much apprehension at the prevailing tendency of women, and especially young women, to indulge in the use of alcoholic liquors. The causes of intemperate habits among the wealthier class are twofold: The first is social wine-drinking customs. These exert an especially strong influence upon young women. At the period of budding womanhood the nervous system is peculiarly impressible, and anything which produces a state of nervous exaltation will, if repeated, readily become a fixed want. No one except a physician can fully appreciate the susceptibility of young ladies at the age when they are conventionally introduced to fashionable society. There is scarcely anything so liable to impress the nervous system at this time as mild but exhilarating wines. Confirmed habits of drunkenness may now now be formed, but permanent impressions are made which will never be lost, and which too often revive at some later period and make sad havoc of personal character and domestic happiness. A second exciting cause is the prescription of alcoholic stimulants by physicians. Reference is not made to the scientific uses of alcohol in medicine, but to the reckless habit of recommending stimulants for all the trifling ailments of women. The physician, wearied with the importunities of patients, recommends wine or beer, brandy, or whisky, a prescription easily made and generously complied with.

The effects of intemperance upon the constitution of women are of the most decisive character. Intemperance tends to shorten life more in woman than in man. Competent authority gives the average duration of life of the intemperate, after drinking is formed, as follows: Among mechanics, working and laboring men, eighteen years; among traders, dealers and merchants, seventeen years; among professional men and gentlemen, fifteen years; among women, fourteen years.

The ills of women accustomed to the habitual use of alcoholic beverages are innumerable. The effects of intemperance upon the mental faculties of women are not less disastrous than upon the physical system. It very rapidly brings her will power under its subjection, and often before her friends are aware that a habit has been formed she is already its helpless and hopeless victim. She will resort to every device to secure its indulgence. It destroys her purity of thought and makes her indifferent to the good opinions of others. The use of alcoholic beverages by women is a growing evil which deserves the most serious consideration. The evil is not limited to the individual, but perpetuates itself in her offspring, and thus leads to the degeneracy of the race. In England, where wine and beer drinking is more common than in this country, the voice of the medical profession has been raised against it. The reform must begin in the home and social circles.

Iowa's Walled Lake.

The greatest wonder in the State of Iowa is what is called the "walled lake," in Wright county, twelve miles north of the Dubuque and Pacific railway, and 150 miles west of Dubuque city. The lake is from two to three feet higher than the earth's surface. In some places the wall is ten feet high, fifteen feet wide at the bottom, and five wide on top. Another fact is the size of the stones used in construction, the whole of them varying in weight from three tons down to 100 pounds. There is an abundance of stones in Wright county, but surrounding the lake to the extent of five or ten miles there are none.

A French Paper's Joke.

A young and rich American lady, with her three children, boarded one of the Mississippi steamboats which have the dangerous habit of enjoying a little racing when a couple of them are careering up or down the stream.

"Captain, I will make the trip with you on one condition—give me your word that you will not race.

"Madam, I pledge my word."

They start. After half an hour another steamer begins to overhaul the first. The lady rushes frantically to the captain.

"Captain, d'ye see? d'ye see?"

"Yes, madam."

"And will you endure it? Will you allow her to give you the go by? No! Impossible! You will at least try."

"Heavens! madam," replied the captain, coldly, "I don't race, but if I did I have no more wood to pile on and show her our heels, unless"——

"Quick! quick! What is it?"

"Unless I burn one of your children."

"Very well, captain," she cries, straining over the railing and looking wildly at the advancing steamer; "hurry up! Burn the biggest!"—*Paris Figaro.*

There is now living in the province of Ontario, Canada, a Catholic priest named John Macdonald, who is ninety-seven years of age, and has been more than seventy years in the priesthood.

Hosts of People are Martyrs

To sick headache, that infallible symptom of a disordered stomach, liver and bowels. Many suffer from it as many as three or four times a week. They do so needlessly, for Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, by toning the digestive organs and regulating the bowels and liver, removes the cause, and dispels the painful symptom. The intimate sympathy between the brain and the abdominal region causes the slightest disorder to be reflected, as it were, in the organ of thought. The reform instituted by the Bitters when the digestive, secretive and evacuative functions are in a state of chaos, has other and more beneficial results, viz.: the complete nutrition of the whole physical economy, the restoration of appetite and repose, and an increase in the power of the system to resist diseases of a malarial type.

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