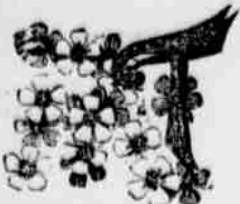


THE WHITE HOUSE.

PAST AND PRESENT OF THE EXECUTIVE MANSION.

Its First Occupants Were the Adamses—Its Partial Destruction by the British—How It Came to Be Termed White.



THE White House of today, says the New York World, is a palace compared to the White House of the past. Yet it was of the White House of the past that Mrs. John Adams, its first occupant, spoke in glowing terms, writing to her daughter that "the house is upon a grand and superb scale, requiring about thirty servants to attend and keep the apartments in proper order; an establishment very well proportioned to the President's salary."

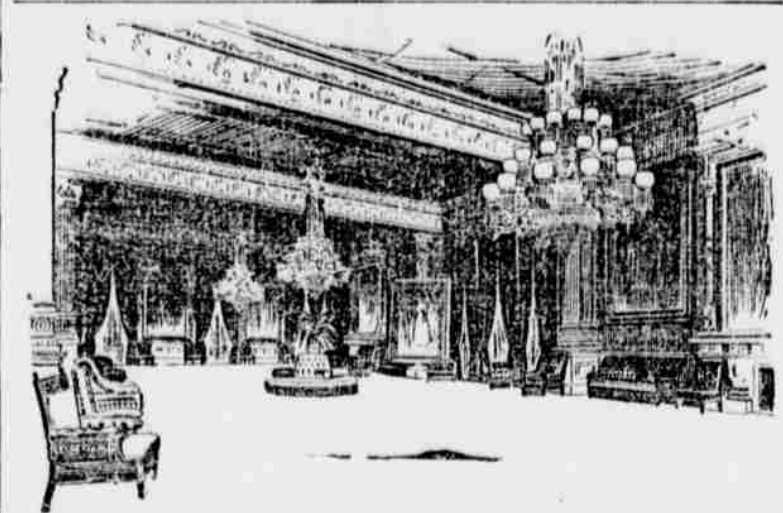
So naive and so simple-minded were the great dames of our early history!

And how came it that Mrs. Adams was the first occupant of the White House? Simply because the seat of Government was not transferred to Washington until towards the close of her husband's term, November, 1800. The change had indeed been decided upon ten years before, and so early as 1792 a prize of \$500 had been offered for the best plan for a Presidential mansion. Among the competitors was James Hoban, a young Irish architect, who had established himself in Charleston and was building the large, substantial and picturesquely unaccountable houses which still remain the characteristic features of

storm. It was decided that the new building should be known as the "Executive Mansion"—mansion being then a term of common use for the better-class dwelling of the Southern gentry. Exactly when this more stately name was superseded by the popular nickname of the White House is not known with certainty. There is a tradition that this was a reminiscence of the former home of Martha Washington, the place where the future Father of his Country

ever-increasing needs of the President's official life have encroached more and more upon his living-apartments, until now of the thirteen apartments on the second floor six are used for the executive offices and ante-rooms, and two for dressing-rooms, leaving only five bed-chambers.

A memorable and rather mortifying occasion, when the exigencies of the President's home were exposed to the gaze of the world at large, was during the visit



HISTORIC EAST ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

spent his honeymoon, which was familiarly known by the same name. But the story is rather discredited. The term is more authentically thought to have gained currency at the time when the building first became a white house in fact, at the time when it was rebuilt after being burned by the British, and when all traces of their vandalism were obliterated by a liberal use of the paint pot.

of the Prince of Wales to this country in 1830. He had been invited to spend five days at the White House. Buchanan's family was one of the smallest that ever dwelt in the White House. It consisted only of him and his niece, Miss Harriet Lane. Yet he was chagrined to find that he would have to divide the Prince's suite with the British Minister. The Prince himself was stowed away in the little room occupied by Mrs. Cleveland as a boudoir and more recently as a bedroom by Mrs. McKee and her children. The President gave up his own room to the Duke of Newcastle and found extemporized quarters in one of the ante-rooms.

Every succeeding President has suffered in something the same way, though his sufferings have not been so publicly displayed. It was only by crowding several members of the household into one room that families like the Grants and the Garfields could find any accommodation whatever for guests. Even President Arthur found himself uncomfortably crowded when exercising hospitality. It was a great annoyance to Mrs. Cleveland, a young bride fond of company, that she could not entertain more than two guests at a time. What was an annoyance to Mrs. Cleveland was a positive discomfort to Mrs. Harrison, whose family occupied every available room in the building.

One of Mrs. Harrison's first thoughts when she came to the White House was to devise some remedy that might relieve her successors from the trials which she had to undergo. She poured out her mind to Mr. Blaine, who agreed that it was an outrage and a disgrace, that



THE WHITE HOUSE.

that town. He had not seen much of the world, nor had he much originality or versatility of intellect. So in preparing for his master work he took for his model one of the finest houses that had come within his field of vision, the palace of the Duke of Leinster in Dublin. This in its turn was an imitation



THE PRESIDENT'S LIBRARY.

tion of the comparatively light and airy structures which the Italians learned to build when the rest of Europe was living in massive piles of brick or gloomy fortified castles. An American-Irish imitation of an Irish imitation of a medieval Italian villa—such is the intellectual genesis of our Presidential mansion.

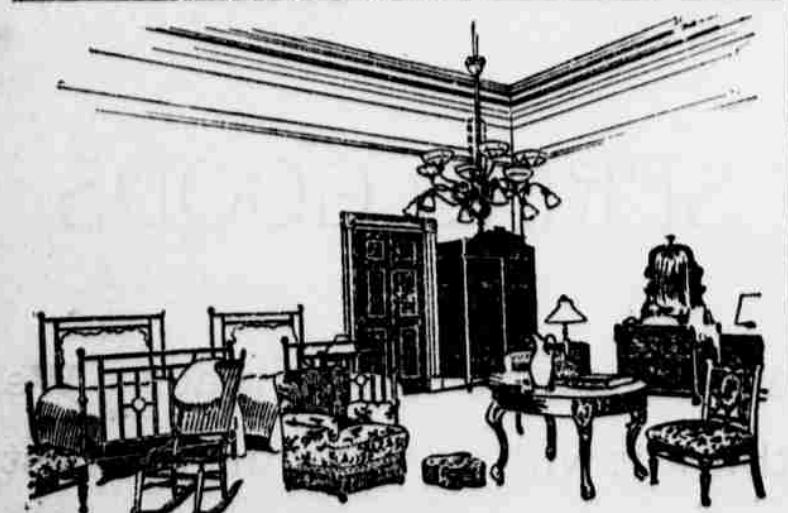
For, as fate willed it, Mr. Hoban won the prize. This was attested by the following certificate published in the city of Washington on July 18, 1792:

"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 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

On October 1, 1792, the corner stone of the mansion was laid in a bare field, sloping to the Potomac. Washington himself was present. It is a pity that people in those days cared little for centennial anniversaries. A postponement of the ceremony just twelve days would have given it a certain historical appropriateness. The 13th of October, 1792, would have marked the tri-centenary of the discovery of America.

In 1814 the British army, under General Ross and Admiral Cockburn, having taken possession of Washington and burned the Capitol, finally wound up by setting fire to the Executive Mansion just as they were about to retreat to their ships. One memento of this fire survives to-day—the so-called Gilbert Stuart portrait of Washington still hanging in the East Room, now known to be the work of an imitator of no special fame. The story is still told of how Mrs. Madison cut this picture out of its frame with a pair of shears to save it from the enemy when she fled from the town. The story is a pretty one, but it is just as apocryphal as the ascription of the picture to Gilbert Stuart. In her own letter describing the flight Mrs. Madison says that Mr. Custis, Washington's nephew, hastened over from Arlington to rescue the precious portrait, and that a servant cut the outer frame with an axe so that the canvas could be removed stretched on the inner frame.

When the President's family returned to Washington they rented a house to live in while the White House itself was being repaired and reconstructed. Hoban, the original architect, was called in to do the restoration. When everything was finished the mansion was bigger and grander than before, but even yet it was neither big enough nor grand enough for the greatest official of the greatest Republic in the world. General Jackson, in spite of—indeed, partly because of—the very democracy of his tastes was dur-



THE PRESIDENT'S BED ROOM.

his plan of the palace, for which he will receive 300 guineas a year."

Notice two things about this certificate. First, that the compensation for the architect is fixed at about \$1500 a year. Imagine a modern architect undertaking a great public work for such a sum as that! Then, second, let your mind rest for a second on the word "palace." Does it not call up all sorts of associated ideas of royalty and aristocracy and courtly ways? So at least thought the young Republic. And straightway a great protest went up from all over the land at this spicing of foreign fashions. Congress beat before two

ing both his terms a loud murmur. The rooms were not large enough for the motley throngs he gathered at his receptions. The crowds wedged and pressed him against the walls and almost choked the life out of him; ladies were even carried fainting out of the building. At last he gave up the public feeds which had become a feature of his administration, alleging that they were a nuisance to himself and to his friends all owing to a lack of proper accommodations.

From that time on to the present the discomforts and inadequacies of the White House have been felt more and more severely by its occupants. The

while millions of dollars had been spent to keep the National Capitol truly representative of a great people, not a dollar had been voted to make the home of the executive head of that people even approximately worthy of the dignity which it housed. The proper way out of the difficulty, he thought, was the enlargement of the present building made in accordance with its order of architecture, and the addition of wings on each side where the purely official part of the President's duties might be transferred. Something of this sort had vaguely floated through Mrs. Harrison's mind. Encouraged by the Secretary's approval, she began to reduce her ideas to order. With the assistance of Colonel John M. Wilson, U. S. A., engineer in charge of public buildings and grounds, and Mr. Frederick D. Owen, who made a series of charcoal drawings, which were submitted to a Washington architect. With these drawings as a basis the architect made a design, which was enthusiastically indorsed by Mrs. Harrison.

The main idea is to retain the old building substantially intact, interfering as little as possible with its historic interest, and only to render it more habitable. For this purpose wings are to be added on the west and the east sides, the whole forming a sort of crescent. To the west wing would be transferred all the Executive offices. A grand saloon for diplomatic or other large receptions, parlors, reception and retiring rooms would occupy the first floor, while the second floor would be given up to the President's offices and the Cabinet-room.

The east wing would be a museum and art gallery. The White House, as it stands, has no room on its walls for further portraits. Mrs. Harrison's idea was that the art gallery should contain portraits of all the Presidents and their wives, as well as of all other Americans who have distinguished themselves in official or military life. In the museum might be preserved such furnishings of the White House as may be removed from time to time. Everything connected with this historic building has a historic value, and Mrs. Harrison held that it was vandalism to destroy or sell it. Indeed, when she first came to the White House she went from garret to

cellar searching for old pieces of furniture and the china and silver of previous Administrations.

A Camel-Shaped Granite Rock.

Curious rock formations are to be found all over the world, but most of them require a long stretch of the imagination before the objects they are said to represent can be seen. In Arizona there is one that is deserving of first place. It is a short distance east of the stage road between Tucson and Oracle, and stands on a knoll several feet above the surrounding sandhills. When first seen the effect is startling, and the mind has to get over a shock before the peculiar object can be comprehended. As described by the San Francisco Call it is a most perfect representation of a camel, and is formed of one piece of granite. No effort of the imagination is required to perceive the "ship of the desert" standing like a sentinel in the midst of the sand and almost veridical hills.

This curiosity is of the colossal size, but perfectly proportioned. It is about sixty feet high, and is very white and smooth. There are very few fissures on the surface, and they, strangely, are in the proper places to form features. The only real projection from the surface is exactly placed for an eyebrow. The two humps are plainly to be seen and the neck is curved beautifully. The rock is really a solid piece rising from the ground, but the effect of legs is produced by a clump of dark colored brush that grows beside the stone. The white stone shows plainly at both sides of the brush and the effect of legs is unmistakably produced. The



CAMEL-SHAPED GRANITE ROCK.

strangest part of it is that it looks like a camel from all sides and at all times of the day or night. There is no disguising the resemblance.

How the rock got into its present shape is one of the great mysteries of nature.

A Snail's Pace.

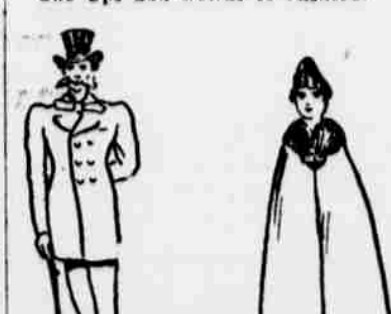
"A snail's pace" need no longer be used as a term more or less indefinite; those skilled in the science of "snailology" can tell you just to a dot the snail's rate of travel. These interesting facts were ascertained by some wonderful experiments at the Florence, Italy, Polytechnic Institution in 1889, and those inclined to be exact can now use figures to support their arguments.

It was all done in this way: A half a dozen of the mollusks were permitted to crawl between two points ten feet apart. Exact time was kept from the start to the finish, and thus the average "pace" was ascertained. The experiments reduced their figures into tables of feet, yards, rods, furlongs, etc., and thus found that it would take a snail exactly fourteen days to travel a mile.—Philadelphia Press.

Scholastic Canteens.

Some time ago the Paris Municipal Council ordered the creation of a number of scholastic canteens, as they are termed, which furnish food gratuitously to children attending the elementary schools, who are so ill-fed that otherwise they would not be strong enough to do the work required of them. A step further in a similar direction has now been taken. Representation having been made to the Council that during the wintry weather some of the little ones came to school in a pitiable state for want of proper clothing, it has been decided to ascertain how many such children are to be found, and to provide woolen material for them to be made up into garments.—New York Post.

The Ups and Downs of Fashion.



KEYSTONE STATE CULLINGS

TWO FATAL ACCIDENTS.

BETHLEHEM.—John Hegley, a brakeman on the North Pennsylvania road, while trying to load his train fell under the wheels and was ground to pieces. Hegley was 21 years old and resided in Philadelphia. James Winters, a section hand on the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad was struck by a passenger train and almost instantly killed. He stepped out of the way of a coal train in front of the passenger train. He was about 40 years old.

GREAT MAPLE SUGAR YIELD.

BEAVER FALLS.—Farmers of Lawrence and Beaver counties report that the maple syrup product this season breaks the record of many years. Since the season began the sugar camps have been running night and day. The abundance of the sap and its unusual sweetness is attributed to the exceptionally cold winter.

RAVER AND RIGOLD WILL SERVE THEIR TERMS. PHILADELPHIA.—The supreme court refused to grant a special allocution in the case of Anarchists Henry Bauer and Carl Noll, of Pittsburgh. By refusing to grant the special allocution the supreme court confirms the conviction and sentence.

ONE BOY SHOTS AND KILLS ANOTHER. HOOKSTOWN.—On Saturday evening, William McPheters, a boy, while attempting to shoot a dog, shot and almost instantly killed William Fox, a 12-year-old son of G. W. Fox, a well-known citizen.

DROWNED IN A BUCKET OF WATER.

GEEKSBURG.—A little daughter of James Mulligan, of Crabtree, aged about one year, fell into a bucket of water in which her father had washed himself and was drowned.

A FAMOUS CAREER ENDED.

MRS. M. V. TAYLOR, A SKILLFUL OIL SPECULATOR, DEAD, THE RESULT OF A RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

Mrs. M. V. Taylor, famous as the first woman to engage in the oil well supply business, died at the Monongahela house, Pittsburgh on Monday. Her death is attributed to injuries sustained on the Washington branch of the Pennsylvania last July. Her suit against the railroad company was to have come up Tuesday morning. The case was postponed.

Mrs. Taylor arrived in Pittsburgh on the 15th of the month from Cambridge Springs and went to the Allegheny General hospital. Subsequently she took up residence at the Monongahela house and would have gone on to Washington, where her suit for \$50,000 against the Pennsylvania Company was to be heard. The accident happened on the 3rd of July. The conductor of the train was trying to make a "flying" switch, and in the job that followed Mrs. Taylor was seriously injured. She leaves three children: Marie, Edith and George. Mrs. Taylor was only in her 30th year.

The deceased lady was known throughout the country for her courage in entering such a business undertaking as the oil well supply trade. She prospered, however, and from her offices in the Fidelity Title & Trust building did a business of over \$200,000 a year. Her first experience in the business was while she was acting as bookkeeper for an oil well. She discovered that there was a shortage of castings in the country and set to work to either buy up or obtain options on the entire supply, being assisted in funds by a favorable turn in a speculation in the oil market. By this means she effected a corner and was able to dictate prices. Mrs. Taylor then went into business for herself and was as good at contracting in the field as her male competitors.

ABE BUZZARD PARDONED.

THE NOTORIOUS LANCASTER OUTLAW RECOMMENDED TO EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY.

HARRISBURG.—The Board of Pardons has recommended executive clemency to Abe Buzzard, who was for many years a terror to the people of portions of Lancaster county. He committed many robberies and was known as the "Wolf Mountain Outlaw." The recommendation is based upon the fact that Buzzard has served all of the time without commutation for which he was sentenced on any crime that he actually committed, besides a term for larceny and has already served 31 years in addition for the offense of which after discovered evidence satisfied the board that he was not guilty. This conclusion of the board is based on a confession of one of the principal witnesses against him that the perpetrators of the offense who acquitted Buzzard of all complicity. The board also recommended the pardon of James S. Dugan, cashier of the Bank of America, convicted of embezzlement.

TRAMPED BY CATTLE.

MRS. JOHN PRICE MET DEATH IN TEN MINUTES.

SHADON.—Mrs. John Price met a horrible death here. She had gone to milk the cows in the barnyard and, not returning, a search discovered her mutilated corpse in the cattle yard, trampled almost out of recognition by the cattle.

PRISON SCHOOL BURNED.

GREENSBURG.—The public school house, valued at \$12,000 and insured for \$8,000 was burned. The 300 children in attendance were gotten out without panic or injury.

THE REVENUE OF A MEXICAN.

SHAMOKIN.—Beau Patrick Ford, a mine boss at Natalie, made a mistake in turning in a couple of Hungarian's time last month, one of them, as yet unknown, crushed his skull with a poker at a dance hall, Thursday night, and with confederates, carried the remains to Ford's home in order to make it appear that he had been thrown from a horse. No arrests have been made.

AN OLD FATHER RETURNS BACK TO HIS CAGE. HARRISBURG.—Samuel Honick, who has served several terms in the penitentiary, was sentenced by the Dauphin county court to 10 years in the eastern penitentiary for a number of burglaries committed in this city.

A DIVIDEND FOR DELINQUENT CREDITORS. MEADVILLE.—After two years, three months and 24 days, the Delamater assignee began the payment to creditors of a dividend of 5.2 per cent. The prospects as to other payments are not stated.

The treatment of paupers buried by the Clar county authorities will be made the subject of an investigation. The poor doctors have a long time that will be made the basis of an official inquiry. An old woman of the almshouse died recently, and the body, after being prepared for burial, was taken to the almshouse burial ground, where the coffin was opened for a final look at the dead. It was charged that the corpse instead of being decently clothed, was simply wrapped in an old sheet and that unusual attention given the dead in preparing them for burial had been shamefully and conspicuously omitted.

Cox's iron breaker at Onida, is on fire and it is said there is no means of fighting the flames. The total loss to machinery and building will be \$200,000.

At Huntingdon the judges of the license court announced that licenses were granted to eight of the 11 applicants. This is one more than had license last year.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

Forty-Sixth Day.—In the Senate to day these bills were introduced: To make it a misdemeanor to wilfully interfere with the property of pipe lines or other associations engaged in the transportation of petroleum, oil or gas; also to enlarge the powers of trust companies so as to enable them to come into which moneys may be paid or brought may by order direct the same to be deposited with any such corporation. To authorize Courts of Common Pleas to grant transfers of liquor licenses. To provide for the creation of a liquor license court to hear and dispose of applications, dividing the State into 21 districts. To make counties liable for property destroyed in consequence of any mob or riot, and for the expense of the National Guard summoned to suppress the same.

These bills were passed finally: To fix liquor licenses at \$500 in cities of the third class having 80,000 inhabitants or over; \$400 in cities containing between 40,000 and 80,000 and \$200 in cities containing under 40,000. For the appointment of receiver in cases where corporations have been dissolved by judgment of court upon proceedings of quo warrants.

In the house this morning the act providing for the licensing of unnatural and male persons 21 years or over who reside or are employed in this State, requiring them to pay \$3 per year came up on third reading Mr. Kane of Fayette, the author of the bill, said the purpose of this bill is to "equalize the burden of local taxation, and to close up a gap that is not contemplated in any other revenue bill. He referred to the great mass of foreigners of the lowest class of civilization found in Europe who have been brought here to displace Americans and who infest industrial and commercial centers. They are not citizens and they seldom remain here. When they have accumulated a sufficient sum they return to their native land and others come to take their place. It is time to call a halt in extending the hand of charity to subjects of a foreign government and insist that they should be self-supporting. Public opinion will not much longer tolerate evasion of the immigration question. This bill does not deal with that, however. It says that every man, no matter whether a citizen or not, shall pay a tax. The act was amended so that of the tax collected in townships one third goes for the support of the roads, one third for the support of schools and one third to the county. In cities and boroughs the revenue is to be distributed as the revenues from other taxes now are. After the amendment has been inserted, the bill passed third reading.

Nearly the entire balance of the session of the House was occupied in discussing Par's bill to compel the attendance of children between the ages of 8 and 12 years at school at least six consecutive weeks, which was amended on second reading so as to provide that the act shall not apply to any child that has been or is being otherwise instructed in the common English branches of learning for a like period of time. The bill passed in its amended shape.

Forty-Seventh Day.—These bills to day passed the senate finally: House bill to provide for the erection of a new department building and repairs to the capitol and appropriating \$255,000 to pay the necessary expenses. To provide for the incorporation of wholesale mercantile co-operations of labor bill to regulate the incorporation of social, fraternal and beneficial associations and to protect the rights of the members. To amend the act prohibiting the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine, by providing that the penalties collected under it be given to the State Board of Agriculture. To define the meaning of butter, cheese and oleomargarine. To regulate the satisfaction, extinguishment or discharge of dowers, legacies, or other charges upon land by judicial decree, where the legal presumption exists from lapse of time or where payment of the same has been made in full, and no satisfaction, extinguishment or release or payment thereof appears of record. To make brutal treatment of a husband by a wife grounds for a divorce. To discourage secret marriages.

A concurrent resolution was adopted providing for adjournment this week until the following Wednesday evening to enable the Senators to attend to their first of April business.

In the House Mr. Smith, of Bedford, introduced a bill to amend the school law relating to the special tax for building purposes by allowing a maximum tax of 10 mills to be assessed for building and school purposes. At the afternoon session of the House these bills passed second reading. Senate bill to require instruction and practice of physical culture in public schools in cities of first and second class, senate bill authorizing liquor license bonds from any part of the county to execute bonds. To repeal the prohibitory liquor law in Mt. Pleasant, Westmoreland counties.

Forty-Eighth Day.—Mr. Grady of Philadelphia, introduced in the senate a bill changing the printing schedule so as to make the prices conform with the times. The present schedule was made in 1877 when lithographic printing was done on a hand press. The bill was proposed by the Superintendent of Public Printing Grier.

The following bills were also introduced in the senate to-day: To give the heirs of deceased members of limited partnerships equal interest in the profits possessed by surviving members. To authorize payment of appropriations for establishment and maintenance of free libraries, and to condemn property for that purpose. The public printing and hardware business bills were reported favorably.

These bills passed finally: To provide for punishment of election bribery and those receiving bribes; to provide for half holidays on Saturday; to require better protection of the health and morals of school children in the various school districts; To increase the maximum punishment for first conviction of murder in the first degree to 30 years to keep public highways from becoming blocked with snow; to extend the act to punish persons for disturbing meetings to theatrical exhibitions. The senate then adjourned until next Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.

In the house the Cotton bill enlarging the provisions of the act preventing and punishing cruelty to animals was reported favorably.

The bill repealing the act of 1891, permitting township voters to cast their ballots in adjoining boroughs was reported negatively from the Judiciary General Committee. Mr. Hewitt, of Blair, contended in committee that the law is constitutional, and predicted that the Supreme Court would sustain his position. The bill to appropriate \$20,000 to the World's Fair Commission, in addition to the \$200,000 appropriated by the last legislature, was reported favorably, and on motion of Chairman Marshall, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next were designated for its consideration on the three necessary readings.

The house then proceeded to the consideration on second reading of the Nesbitt road bill, which passed second reading. Considerable time was devoted to the consideration on second reading of ex-Speaker Hewitt's bill to prevent the adulteration of drugs, foods, and spirituous, fermented or malt liquors in the State. The bill passed second reading. A large number of bills passed second reading after which the house adjourned until Tuesday morning.

Somewhat Eccentric.

Charles Lamb's dear old bookish friend George Dyer, could never be got to say an ill word, even of the vilest miscreant. "Come now, George," said Lamb one day, on teasing intent, "now what do you say of Williams?" (Williams was the Ratcliff Highway murderer, the Jack the Ripper of his day, celebrated in De Quincey's "Murder as a Fine Art.") "Well, Mr. Lamb," replied Dyer, "I must admit he was a somewhat eccentric character."