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PLANS OF BINGHAM.

THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENTS OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

Mrs. Harrison's Ideas Partially Followed in Remodeling the Executive Mansion—The Urgent Need of More Room.

[Special Correspondence.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The improvement, enlargement and adornment of the buildings and grounds of the national capital seem to be the order of the day. And all this is very proper, particularly in view of the fact that we have just celebrated with flourish of trumpets and rhetoric the one hun-



Photo by Clineinst, Washington. COLONEL THEODORE A. BINGHAM.

dredth anniversary of the establishment of the seat of government in Washington. Already Washington is one of the most beautiful capitals of the world, and there is no reason why we should not make it the most magnificent. Two schemes of improvement are now fairly under way, one involving the construction of a splendid park system and boulevard, plans for which have been submitted by Samuel Parsons, Jr., the noted architect of New York, and which have been approved by Secretary Root and the engineers of the war department, under whose direction the work will be prosecuted, and the other the enlargement of the White House, the plans and a model of which were presented at the recent centennial celebration by Colonel Theodore A. Bingham, U. S. A., who has charge of the public buildings and grounds of the capital.

That the "Greater White House" is an urgent necessity all freely admit, but Colonel Bingham's project does not meet entire approval. There are those who hold that construction of the proposed wings to the executive mansion would not only mar the architectural effect of the building itself, but detract from the beauty of the White House grounds. These critics hold that the executive mansion should be preserved intact not only because it is a national landmark at once admirable and historic, but because its preservation is regarded as a necessity to the appearance of the neighborhood, which is already imperiled in the matter of its grace and beauty. It is urged that the present executive mansion, which all admit is wholly inadequate for its present uses, should be used by the president as an office and for state purposes only and that a suitable residence should be provided elsewhere, insuring for him and his family the personal privacy which even the humblest citizen enjoys. There is not a little pertinency in the suggestion, though it will evidently not be adopted.

Colonel Bingham's plan, which on the whole is very satisfactory, will doubtless be carried out. As every American citizen will be a part owner in the enlarged White House the details are of interest to the whole country. The model embodies the present executive mansion, unaltered and standing out in conspicuous relief. Colonel Bingham combines his original ideas with those of Mrs. Harrison, the wife of ex-President Harrison, for an enlarged mansion with wings. Mrs. Harrison's plans, as worked out by F. D. Owen, an architect connected with Colonel Bingham's office, comprise two new buildings like the old one, but placed at right angles thereto and connected by colonnades or wings. Colonel Bingham's model includes only these connecting wings added to the White House as it now appears. The larger buildings can be added later whenever congress sees fit to authorize the expenditure. The connecting wings will be complete in themselves until such future improvements are made. The exterior architecture, as shown in the model, is in the form of colonnades sweeping around to the rear, with Ionic columns similar to those which support the main portico. Behind these may be seen a curved extension of the original White House walls. At the extremity of each colonnade wing is shown a new entrance with a port-cochere facing squarely south. The wings will be two stories in height, their columns extending to the top all around.

The new wings will be divided into various apartments by temporary partitions, which may be removed to afford a clear space when the larger additions are built to complete Mrs. Harrison's scheme of utilizing each colonnade wing as a passageway with central rotunda for reaching the greater adjuncts. The extension on the west side of the new model is designated as the "official wing," that on the east the "public wing." In the latter and extending from the east room will be a

new reception room and ample office apartments connecting with those now on the second floor. Provision is also made for a new circular state dining room 60 feet in diameter in the west or "official wing." On the second floor of this will be provided five additional bedrooms.

The White House today is no larger than it was when President John Adams moved into it a century ago, and he found it none too large for his needs. Mrs. Adams remarked that it was "very well proportioned to the president's salary," which was then \$25,000 a year, or half that which modern presidents are supposed to need in dispensing executive hospitality, the demands upon which have fully doubled within the past century. At his state functions Adams received but 32 senators, whereas William McKinley must be host to 90. The apartments in which were entertained but 105 representatives in 1800 must now hold 356 at White House receptions. The cabinet, now with eight members, then had but five. The diplomatic corps was a small handful of foreigners. Adams could entertain his entire senate and cabinet together in the state dining room, built to accommodate but 40 guests. Today President McKinley must abandon this well lighted room intended for state feasts. He must spread his board in a long, narrow corridor running east and west through the center of the building.

This is the oldest public building in Washington and has been occupied by every president of the United States excepting only the first, though he presided at the laying of its cornerstone. There is record of one brief occasion when it sheltered also George and Martha Washington. They walked through it on a tour of inspection in 1790 but a few weeks before the first president's death. It is all the more hallowed on this account. Washington had been present in 1792 when the cornerstone was laid with Masonic ceremonies. The same year, through his three commissioners appointed to govern the District of Columbia, he had advertised for a design for "the president's house." He offered a premium of \$500 to the architect submitting the best plan. This was won by James Hoban, a young Irish architect of Charleston. Hoban's design is said to have closely copied that of the Irish Duke of Leinster's palace in Dublin. Work was commenced at once, but difficulty in raising funds prolonged it for more than eight years. The walls were of Virginia sandstone, quarried near the capital city.

As to how the executive mansion first received the name White House is a mooted question. Some historians state that this was out of respect for Martha Washington, whose childhood home in Virginia bore that designation. Others claim that the name was suggested by the white paint which has always adorned its exterior since the British disfigured the walls when they sacked the city during the war of 1812. When the Adamses moved into the building, it had cost all told a quarter



Snap shot by "Dint," Washington. SECRETARY ROOT.

of a million dollars. Necessary repairs and refurnishings, including the reparation of the damage wrought by the British, have brought the total cost of the building since 1800 up to about \$2,000,000. It is estimated that it will cost something like another million to complete the enlargements outlined in Colonel Bingham's plans.

SAMUEL HUBBARD.

A Discussion of the Supernatural. "Mammy," said Pickaninny Jim, who had maintained a long and thoughtful silence, "is dar any sech fing as cullud folks' haunts?"

"You mean goshes," rejoined Aunt Maria as she turned from the ironing board.

"Yas'm."

"Well, sonny, you has hit on a sub-jek dat's been givin science a heap of trouble. Maybe dar is cullud folks' goshes, an maybe dar ain't. De difficulty of ascertainment lies in de fact dat if dar was a cullud folks' gosh his complexion would be so dahk dat you couldn't notice 'im."—Washington Star.

EVOLUTION OF THE EDITOR.

From Ben Franklin's Time There Have Been Many Changes.

When Benjamin Franklin embarked on the journalistic sea, the title "the editor" was not a generic term. Main matter so addressed reached the office of The Pennsylvania Gazette with such promptness as was considered possible in those days. Franklin was not only the editor, but also foreman, typesetter and the genius that squeezed philosophy into plain black and white on his primitive hand press. In the course of time "Vox Populi," "Constant Reader" and "An Old Inhabitant" obtruded themselves, and with their assistance The Pennsylvania Gazette began to shake off Franklin's individuality.

There is not historic verification for the statement, but it is assumed that this period marked the inception of the associate or assistant editor. As time wore on views expanded, and the vest pocket newspaper kept pace, widening its utility from that of a mere purveyor of thought to a domestic necessity when window sashes warped. Meanwhile the assistant editor was given an assistant, and the "departments" began to assume definite characters.

The occasion had not really arisen, but there came a titular revision, and in the distribution of designations the generality of "associate" was dropped, that functionary either in the singular or plural being known as the genius presiding over some of the departments. As a matter of fact, however, it was usually more than one, but the telegraph editor, the like came forth in a procession of evolution. The literary, art, dramatic and science departments appeared simultaneously, and then a "long felt want" having been discovered for the farmer, the agricultural department became a necessity. Its guiding hand must be a student of cause as well as of effect. He must know the weight of a potato at each stage of its development and tell whether a rooster or a hen will hatch from an egg by holding it to the sunlight. This is a department largely to itself and, as nature is constant, is less subject to change than some of the later editorial creations.

The universalizing of athletics occasioned a noticeable gap in the then well recruited "staff," for that is what the composite editor became in the expansion process. A sporting editor was as much of a crying need as any other of the specialists. He must be an encyclopedia of athletics, wear a diamond and smoke perfectos, but the "tough talk" of some of the fraternity is an affectation and not a qualification. In his department there is another colony of "subs," including experts on baseball, horse racing, cricket and the indoor sports. Golf is a recent addition and demands a man fluent in curious words and inclined toward pedestrianism. Another requisite is his ability to find his way home after a day's unerring excitement on the links.

These are all more or less fixtures on a well equipped staff. If any one of the sporting editors is in danger of finding himself without his familiar occupation in the course of years, he is the horse editor, whose idolized equine may some day drift into the zoo among other rare beasts. But the horse editor's sun has not set hopelessly since the automobile has come into vogue. He can just as well become the horseless editor and be more modern than any of his confreres.

But even to contemplate it, the spectacle would be the most distressful of all the changes of journalism. The very thought of a horse editor, his nose keen to the scent of blooded trotters, reporting an automobile race amid the noxious odors of gasoline excites pity.

Just Missed a Priceless Stone.

"It is the custom," said H. A. Stanhope of Cape Town, South Africa, at the Hotel Victoria the other day, "each year to sell the output of the Kimberley fields to the highest bidder. The diamonds are sold at so much a carat, without reference to the size of the stones, although stones below a certain weight are not in the agreement. Obviously the larger the stones found the better it is for the purchaser, for the value of a diamond increases enormously with each carat.

"This led to a most extraordinary occurrence. Barney Barnato had the fields one year, but Alfred Beit outbid him and got them for the year following. The first blast fired under the Beit management dislodged the largest diamond ever found. It weighed over 900 carats in the rough, and its value is simply incalculable. If Barnato had fired one more blast before his lease was up, the diamond would have become his. As it was, however, it became the property of Alfred Beit. It is said that the shah of Persia is now negotiating for its purchase. If he gets it, he'll have to put a mortgage on a good slice of his empire to pay for it. That one diamond was worth far more than the entire yield from the fields for the previous year."

Hazing Half a Century Ago. Hazing at colleges and government schools seems to be attracting unusual interest just now, which makes interesting this account of hazing at Yale in 1845, taken from a freshman's letter written at that time and now published in The Harvard Graduates' Magazine:

"I had a letter from — the other day — they are having great times at Yale plugging the fresh, etc. That business is carried on to a great extent here. Many of the poor fellows have been ducked under the windows a dozen times, etc. The greatest sport is to break into their rooms at midnight for a whole party of sophs at a time, mound the scart fellow get up, mound the table in his shirt sleeves, answer questions in geography, arithmetic, Latin grammar, etc. (the simplest possible, so as to be suited to a freshman's comprehension), read a little Greek and then, what is the greatest trial, declaim. If he refuses to comply, he receives a shower from his water pail until he submits. If he answers well, he is highly complimented and flattered and politely bid good night."

A Noble Clergyman. There is but one marquis in the British peerage who is a clergyman, and that is the Marquis of Normansy. Though heir to an earldom, a viscounty, a couple of baronies and the marquisate, his lordship was content for over 20 years to work as a curate and vicar. Since he succeeded his father in 1890 he has even turned part of his ancestral home, Mulgrave castle, Whitby, into a school for boys. The Phipps family has earned considerable fame, one of them having invented the diving bell.

HOUSE DECORATION.

ARTISTIC, COMFORTABLE AND APPROPRIATE FURNISHING.

A Meaningless Room—Wealth and Taste—Artistic Treatment For Corner of a Living Room—Elegant and Inviting Library Seat.

A meaningless room is a distinct hindrance to those who live in it; the color one loves and the furniture that has a loving association or suggestion, a distinct help. And the support given



ARTISTIC CORNER IN A LIVING ROOM.

to a picture by an appropriate framing is as important as that in the picture itself. Subject and background should, to use a colloquialism, "hang together," says The Art Interchange, in which the following also occurs:

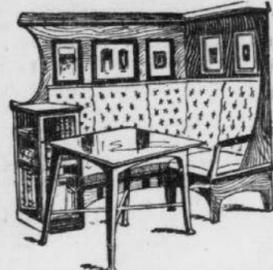
It is not at all necessary that unlimited wealth and a knowledge of the beautiful should go hand in hand. It cannot be denied that in many houses where the income is limited the taste exhibited in furniture and arrangements is very often superior. The possession of money enables us no doubt to buy better articles, but we cannot buy artistic perception, the want of which no amount of rich or massive furniture can hide. Indeed, bad taste will be found in the houses of the rich as in homes of far less pretensions.

For those who may not be gifted with that innate perception of the good, the beautiful, the true, a careful study of good models and perfect designs will do much to remedy a defect which is very apparent in many houses.

In beautifying our homes to the best of our means and abilities we act not merely for ourselves, but we attempt or should attempt to give our guests and friends as much pleasure during their temporary visits as we ourselves enjoy, and our pictures and decorations and furniture should be chosen to please, not oneself, but all and sundry. Let us use our taste, not merely for a selfish gratification, but to give some share of the pleasure we feel ourselves to our visitors and friends. This is a duty which is expected from us and a duty we ought to fulfill.

Here are shown examples of artistic furniture into the making of which enters the question of taste rather than cost. The first illustration, like its companion, is taken from an arrangement of furniture in actual existence and shows an artistic treatment of a corner without great expenditure of money. The employment of the large mirror, simply framed, serves both a decorative and a useful purpose, and the plant, while adding to the attractiveness of the corner, is so placed as to get light from the window at the back. It will be noted also that the chair is so placed as to get light for reading at the back of the reader and at the same time face the companion reclining on the couch.

The corner seat, bookshelves and writing table are simple in design, yet would add to the attractiveness of a living room or library. The finish should be in harmony with the other furnishings of the room and may be in green stained oak with sage green corduroy cushions or in mahogany or cherry with crimson plush cushions. The mirror which is introduced above the cushions at one end serves to lighten the corner by reflecting light and may be omitted, if not needed, and a picture used in place; also the maker will have no difficulty in lengthening the end to be of the same dimensions as the side, seen beyond the table. Certainly, while the services of a cabinet maker may be



COMFORTABLE CORNER SEAT FOR LIBRARY, required in its construction, when completed the owner will have a corner seat of artistic design and one not to be seen duplicated in many houses.

One difficulty in carrying out any decorative scheme of artistic furnishing is that we crowd the room. The error is in getting too much rather than too little. The simplicity of furnishing in the library mentioned gave to it an atmosphere of quiet and beauty that was not only refreshing but enabling in its restful, refining influence.

Stickpins or scarpins of substantial character, with large and heavy heads, are thrust through the crossed ends of ribbon belts.