



FRUIT HILL, THE RESIDENCE OF DUNCAN McARTHUR.

rangement of the boundaries of the prospective Northwestern States, and if possible to procure permission to call a convention for the formation of a State from the eastern portion of the Territory, having the boundaries originally provided by the ordinance, and to effect that organization "which, terminating the influence of tyranny, should meliorate the circumstances of thousands by freeing them from the domination of a despotic chief." In April, 1802, Congress passed an act to enable the people within the present boundaries of Ohio to form a Constitution, organize a State government, and to obtain admission into the Union on an equal footing with the original States. The people, eager to avail themselves of their new privileges, ordered and held an election, and chose delegates to represent them in a Constitutional Convention. This Convention assembled in Chillicothe on the first of November, 1802, and held its session in the "old stone State-house," in which the Territorial Legislature had assembled in 1801. The building was commenced in 1800, and finished in the following year. It was generally devoted to State purposes, and also served as the place for holding the local courts. Many years after the removal of the capital to Columbus, this first State-house of Ohio remained as a reminder of Chillicothe's proud early days; but about fifty years from the time it was built it was found that the plain, simple little struc-

ture, which was once thought amply commodious for the use of the State, was too small to serve the needs of the county, and it was destroyed to make room for a finer structure.

The Constitutional Convention brought to Chillicothe an assemblage of the ablest men in the Territory—such men as Charles Willing Byrd, William Goforth, and Jeremiah Morrow, of Cincinnati, Rufus Putnam and Judge Ephraim Cutler, from Marietta, and Samuel Huntington, from the Connecticut Reserve; but no locality had a stronger or more brilliant representation than Chillicothe. Among her delegates were Massie, Worthington, Tiffin, and Michael Baldwin, an erratic genius, who, previous to that time enjoying a local celebrity as the ablest and most brilliant member of the bar in the infant settlement, then first came before the people in a broader capacity. The Convention closed its labors after a session so short as to be worthy of the emulation of modern legislators, and it gave to the people a Constitution "which bore in every provision the marks of democratic feeling, of full faith in the people." And it may be added that the Constitution was never submitted to the people in whom it professed such full faith. Thomas Worthington is known to have been the member by whom was introduced the clause which secured to Ohio the mouth of the Maumee, the site of Toledo, and a valu-