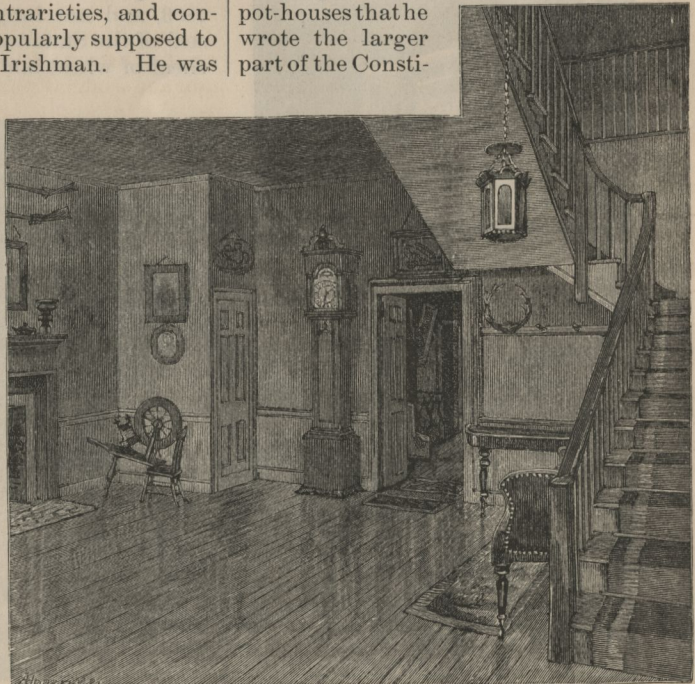


able strip of territory, and he also was the originator of one or two other provisions; but Michael Baldwin, there is reason to believe, was the author of the greater part of the Constitution. No other man in the Convention possessed at the same time so large a legal knowledge and so great literary ability as he. He was one of that vast number of men to whom the world, or some part of it, has been indebted for most valuable services; but his great strength was handicapped by elements of weakness and venal faults—follies which impaired his usefulness, but did not destroy it. His ability, eccentricity, and prominence among the pioneer public men of the West entitle him to more than passing notice. He was both famous and notorious at an early day, and though his career in Chillicothe was short, and he left no monument or relic of his residence there, he was one of the marked characters of the town and State. He had located in the village as early as the last year of the last century, for the records show that he was in that year admitted to practice in the courts. Although he emigrated to the West from Connecticut, he was in all probability an Irishman, as his name would imply, and his character too, for that matter, for it was made up of all the incongruities, contrarieties, and contradictions that are popularly supposed to belong to the typical Irishman. He was strongminded and physically, able to cope successfully with the best minds he met with, and equally well provided with that physical prowess which was necessary to the winning of respect from the roughs, and which brought victory in personal encounter. Well read in law, and familiar with general literature, he was, when he had a mind to be, as winning and graceful in private conversation as he was fluent and forcible in public oratory. These qualities won

for him many admirers, but other qualities which he possessed repelled the better element of the community; and thus losing the universal respect which he might have commanded, poor Baldwin suffered many falls in public favor, was only for brief periods successful, and led a sorry career, full of vicissitudes. He was kind-hearted and generous when he had means to be generous with, as he seldom did. Full of rollicking humor, and fond of wild fun, he developed a strong love for liquor, which was very naturally indulged in the unsettled town, until the once brilliant man sank from a high position into obscurity. Unrest or unhappy recollections of past life probably made him an easy prey to demoralizing influences, or at least such was the indication afforded by his actions. He became, very soon after his settlement in the West, recklessly dissipated, abandoning himself to the wildest orgies and protracted sprees, from which he would emerge into a condition of clear-headedness and temporary respectability to perform the most arduous legal labor, or to take a leading part in some political movement. The tavern of one William Keys was his favorite resort, and it is traditionally asserted that it was at this pioneer of pot-houses that he wrote the larger part of the Consti-



HALLWAY AT ADENA.