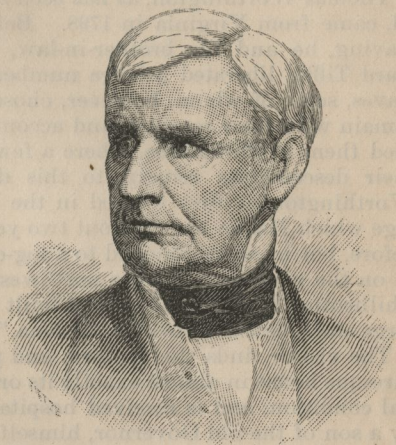


the foreground, with rugged hills beyond, supposed to represent in idealized or conventionalized forms Mount Logan and the other elevations which form a sort of mountain chain east of the old capital. Years afterward, when the great internal improvement was effected of which De Witt Clinton was the father, a canal-boat was added as emblematical of commerce.

Governor Tiffin made an excellent helmsman for the new ship of state, and in 1805 was unanimously re-elected. The most notable official act of his gubernatorial career was the arrest of the Burr-Blennerhasset expedition. There are a few old citizens who can remember Ohio's first Governor—the mild-mannered, pure, and scholarly man, who, after serving as the Chief Executive of the State, was United States Senator, and then refused other important offices because he could not wean himself from his Ohio home.

Michael Baldwin, the irrepressible and incorrigible, was no more dignified, abstemious, or moral in his position as Speaker of the first Ohio House of Representatives than he had been in former years or lesser stations. He presided over the Chamber in 1803, 1804, and 1805. It is a matter of tradition that for his own pecuniary benefit, and for the entertainment of those among the legislators who had a penchant for gaming, he established in his rooms the game of "vingt-et-un," himself acting as banker and dealer, and as a matter of course winning more frequently than any of the other players. On one occasion, after much drinking and a late sitting at the gambling table, Baldwin found himself in possession not only of all the money of his companions, but of many of their watches. In the morning the House of Representatives was found to be without a quorum; but Baldwin, accustomed to heavy drinking and late hours, was in his place back of the Speaker's desk. Rapping savagely with his gavel, he demanded the roll-call of the House, and then sent the sergeant-at-arms out with orders to bring in the delinquent members. After an hour or so that functionary returned, followed by about a dozen members of the Ohio Legislature, whose blood-shot eyes, suffused faces, unsteady, shambling steps, and general air of shamefacedness indicated the late hours they had kept and their heavy indulgences. With much austerity of manner, Baldwin reprimanded the tardy

members, reminded them of the cost to which the infant State was subjected by payment of their *per diems*, and was proceeding to further elaborate his censure



WILLIAM ALLEN.

on their late arrival and the consequent delay of legislation, when one of the delinquents, exasperated beyond control, cried out: "Hold on there, Mr. Speaker, hold on! How could we tell what time it was when the Speaker of the House had all of our watches?"

Before and during the time when the State government was being organized, many local improvements were being made, which rendered the town more worthy of the honor which had been conferred upon it. Gradually the institutions of civilization were springing up in the new settlement. In 1800, Nathaniel Willis, grandfather of the poet, established in Chillicothe one of the earliest newspapers west of the Alleghanies, the *Scioto Gazette*, which has been published continuously ever since, and is now the oldest newspaper in Ohio. Churches were organized, and houses of worship built, schools provided, business projects entered upon, and an era of prosperity inaugurated which was unrivalled in any of the Western settlements. A little later than this period the Madeira House was built—a hostelry which in early times was known to all Western travellers, and famed for many years as the best tavern between Baltimore and Cincinnati. And here in this new town, then containing only a few hundred people, singular to state, in