

MISCELLANEOUS.

Written for this Paper.

WHITE HOUSE WATCH-DOG.

The White House has never been more carefully guarded than it is today. Tramps are swarming into Washington from all parts of the United States, and a report was received here the other day that 1,500 were on their way from the south to the capital. The President's mail includes all sorts of cranky letters, and the financial distress which prevails over the United States has developed a discontented army, many of the soldiers of which think that President Cleveland can redress their grievances. The air seems to breed cranks and the demon of destruction is abroad in the land. A week or so ago Washington's "Jack the Ripper" got into the White House and amused himself by carving up the furniture. He cut the curtains in the green room and ran his knife through the elegant coverings of the sofas and chairs. Since then the private rooms of the White House have not been shown to visitors, and the vigilance of the guards has been increased. The Hawaiian matter, with the severe editorial criticisms of the President upon it from many sources, has not helped his position in the eyes of the cranks, and the possibility of a Guiteau or a Prendergast hangs like a shadow over the Executive Mansion.

THE WHITE HOUSE DEFENSES.

I have devoted some time this week to finding out just what safeguards are placed around the President. He is almost as well watched as any monarch of Europe. Policemen are stationed about the White House grounds and the White House itself as it is now arranged is almost crank proof. It is, you know, surrounded by acres of green grass and trees. It is fully three hundred feet back from the street and the grounds in the rear and at the sides cover acres. The trees are large and there is no dense shrubbery anywhere. The burglar who would attempt to pass through it, either in day or night, could be easily seen, and it has practically no hiding places. An iron fence about five feet high runs around the grounds. This fence is set firmly in a sandstone basement and the bars which compose it are tipped with sharp points, so that it would be impossible to climb over them without injury, and each bar is about an inch in diameter. They are so closely placed together that it would require the breaking of two or three of them in order for a man's body to be gotten through the fence, and the only access to the grounds is by the gates. There are eight gates to the park of the Executive Mansion, two on the side next to the treasury and two facing the State Department. There are also four gates at the front facing Pennsylvania avenue. The gates at the sides are for foot passengers only, and they are locked every evening with great iron chains and padlocks. The front gates are larger. Two of them are for carriages and two for foot passengers. They are of the strongest of wrought iron and they are locked every night in the same way as the gates at the side.

THE POLICE ON GUARD.

The police of the city are constantly on guard on the streets outside of the

grounds. They patrol Pennsylvania avenue in front of the White House, and they move up and down between it and the Treasury and the State Department. They also keep their eyes on the White Lot, which extends behind the White House Park, and any one paying especial attention to the building at night is carefully watched. In addition to this force there is the White House police proper, and it will surprise some to know that it requires the services of thirteen policemen to guard the grounds and the house itself. This is in addition to the messengers and servants of the Executive Mansion, and these policemen have their regular watches and are on guard night and day. During the day the gates are open and certain parts of the grounds are practically free to visitors, but no one can move through them and be for a moment out of the sight of one of these policemen, and this corps of police, though it comes from the city, is under the charge of Private Secretary Thurber, or more immediately of Capt. Decker, who may be called the chief watch dog of President Cleveland. Within the past few years a wire fence has been built around a part of the ground nearest the White House. Coming into the great half moon drive through the gate above the treasury you walk up a flagstone sidewalk until you get near the mansion, and you reach this wire fence at about twenty feet from the White House itself. Running parallel with the White House from the corner to the front steps this fence is of great bars of iron about two inches thick, tipped with gilded arrow heads and reaching as high as your chest. There is an area way between the wall upon which the fence is built and the White House itself, and looking down this at the corner you see one of the doors which lead into the basement. This door is guarded by the policeman at the back of the house, and also by the guard who always stands in the long central corridor of the basement. The gate leading from the drive down to this door is kept locked, and the wire fence which extends from this gate down to the treasury entrance begins again at the back of the White House and shuts off this side yard and this door from visitors. It runs around to the back of the White House to the back steps, and on the other side of these steps shuts off visitors from access to the house.

THE REAR GUARD.

A policeman stands at the back steps night and day, and the basement and the first floor entrances are guarded by him. His position gives him a view of the grounds in rear of the mansion, and he is one of the most important guards of the force. Should he go to sleep or be removed, one of the main entrances to the White House, supposing the crank could pass the guards on the outside, would be by the back steps and the blue room, which are less carefully guarded than the basement. Even in this case, however, the burglar would have to pick the locks of the doors leading into the blue room, and he would then have to pass through a number of other doors before he could get at the President's valuables or his person.

It was in this way that a son of a

United States Senator broke into the White House not long ago. He got in through the window of the red room, but it was found that he was drunk rather than crazy, and the matter was hushed up. A red-headed crank from Idaho haunted the grounds back of the White House for some days about the time of the close of the last session of Congress. He was crazy on the subject of the silver bill, and probably meditated some injury to the President. His case was investigated by the police, and it was found that he had written threatening letters to the President. He escaped, however, before his true character was known.

INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE.

The police inside the White House are the most important of the President's watch dogs. Supposing the crank to have passed the policeman on the grounds, he enters the White House by the front door. This has a massive lock, and it is never left standing open. It admits you to the great vestibule of the Executive Mansion, which is, you know, twice as big as the average city parlor, and which is shut off from the rest of the house by walls at the ends and by a great glass screen at the back. This vestibule always contains from three to five guards. Some of them are the messengers of the White House and others are policemen in uniform. It is only within the last few months that police uniforms have been used in the White House. These policemen are heavy-set fellows. They are the pick of the force, and they are men who have good detective faculties, as well as strong muscles and courageous hearts. They can usually detect a crank at a glance, and every visitor who comes into the White House has to pass under their eyes. One of them usually sits or stands at the right of the door as you come in, and if you pass the doorkeeper you are motioned to the left. Going across the vestibule, you find here the door that leads you to the hall and to the east room. Here there is another policeman on guard, and if you have no business with the President this man does not permit you to mount the stairs. You are permitted to go into the east room and look about, but no further. The action of the vandal who cut the green room curtains and sofas will probably prevent the private rooms of the White House being open to the public for some time to come.

This man recalls a case which happened during the days of President Lincoln. A woman sightseer in her anxiety to carry away a relic of the White House had taken a pair of scissors and snipped a piece out of the lace curtain. She was caught in the act and was taken up to President Lincoln. He gave her a good sermon, but let her go. The man who cut the green room furniture seems to have been actuated by the desire to destroy rather than to have been a relic hunter.

WHERE THE PRESIDENT WORKS.

Grover Cleveland does all of his work above stairs. It is on the second floor of the Executive Mansion that the President and his family live, and this is the part of the White House which is most carefully watched. The living rooms of the family are at the west end of this floor. The end nearest the treasury is devoted to offices, and it is always filled with clerks and messengers. This is the only part that is accessible to people