

# NORTH CAROLINA EXECUTIVE MANSIONS

By MARSHALL De LANCEY HAYWOOD

In early colonial days there was no official residence provided at the public expense for the use of the Governors of North Carolina. Each of these dignitaries built or purchased his own home.

Houses Near Edenton and at Brunswick. Not many miles from the present town of Edenton were Eden House, one of the homes of Governor Charles Eden, and of Governor Gabriel Johnston (the latter having married Eden's step-daughter), and Balgray House, the

the Governor's Council and the Assembly held its sessions. At the end of the year 1779, the Tryon Palace was ready for occupancy; and the public records of the colony were transferred to it in January and February, 1771. Tryon was not destined to enjoy the magnificence of his palaces for more than a few months, as he was transferred to the Governorship of New York in the spring of the same year. While he was in New Bern, however, he dispensed a princely hospitality to many men of note, both from

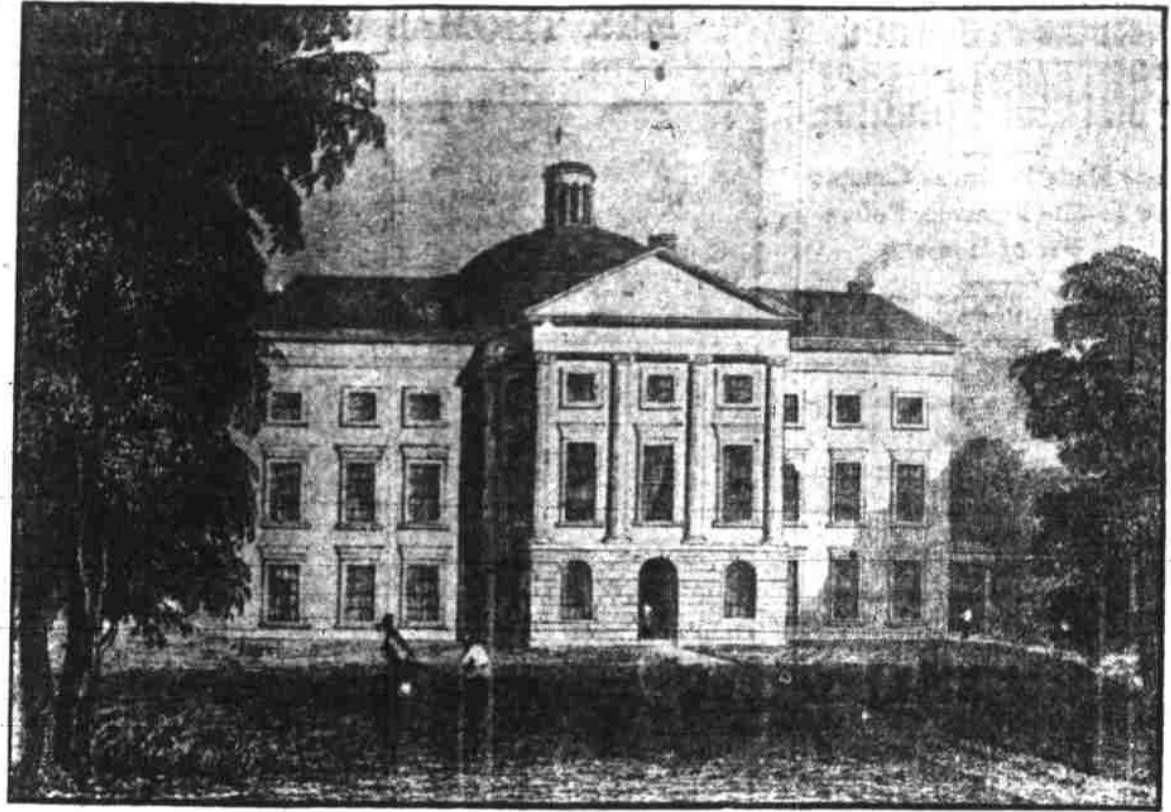
there until driven out in the early stages of the Revolution by Abner Nash, Richard Coghill, Alexander Gaston, and other patriots, who seized the six pieces of artillery with which the grounds of the mansion were fortified, and took possession of the premises in the name of the people of North Carolina. Afterwards the Palace served various purposes, such as a meeting place for the Whigs, a Masonic lodge-hall, a ball-room for public entertainments (including one in honor of General Washington in April, 1791),

ment, and a plain two-story framed building, painted white, and an office on the corner, were provided on lot No. 131. This first gubernatorial mansion was subsequently the residence of the late James Coman. The First National Bank of North Carolina, now occupies the site from which the first Executive Office and Mr. Coman's brick store were successively removed. The banking house, just mentioned, still occupies the site referred to by Governor Swain, though its name has since been changed to the Raleigh Banking and Trust Company. Those who were the occupants of this house were Governors James Turner, Nathaniel Alexander, Benjamin Williams, David Stone, Benjamin Smith, and William Hawkins. The immediate successor of Hawkins was Governor William Miller, who removed to the new mansion (presently to be mentioned) in 1816.

**Second Mansion in Raleigh.** Those who are old enough to remember the city of Raleigh of a third of a century ago, will recall the appearance of a large brick building, with massive white pillars, standing across the southern end of Fayetteville street, one mile from the Capitol. This was the official home of twenty Governors of North Carolina, beginning with Governor William Miller, in 1816, and ending with Governor Zebulon B. Vance in 1865, at the end of his last war-time term. It was in a state of dilapidation and disuse after the war, until 1876 when the Centennial Graded School was opened in the building by the city of Raleigh, it being the first Graded School established in North Carolina. The building after being used as a school for about ten years, was demolished, and replaced by the present Centennial Graded School building.

In the old Governor's Mansion, just mentioned, many notable scenes transpired. In 1825, when Lafayette came to Raleigh on his tour of America, he was a guest at the Mansion, then occupied by Governor Hutchins G. Burton. For several years after 1831, in consequence of the destruction of the Capitol, sessions of the General Assembly were held there. In 1856, a meeting of several Southern Governors, and a number of political leaders in North Carolina was held in the Mansion, and the participants in the meeting were assailed in the newspapers for what was alleged to be an effort to dissolve the Union. In 1865, when Sherman's Army took possession of Raleigh, Governor Vance left the Mansion, which was thereupon seized by Sherman and used as his headquarters. It was never again used as a Governor's Mansion.

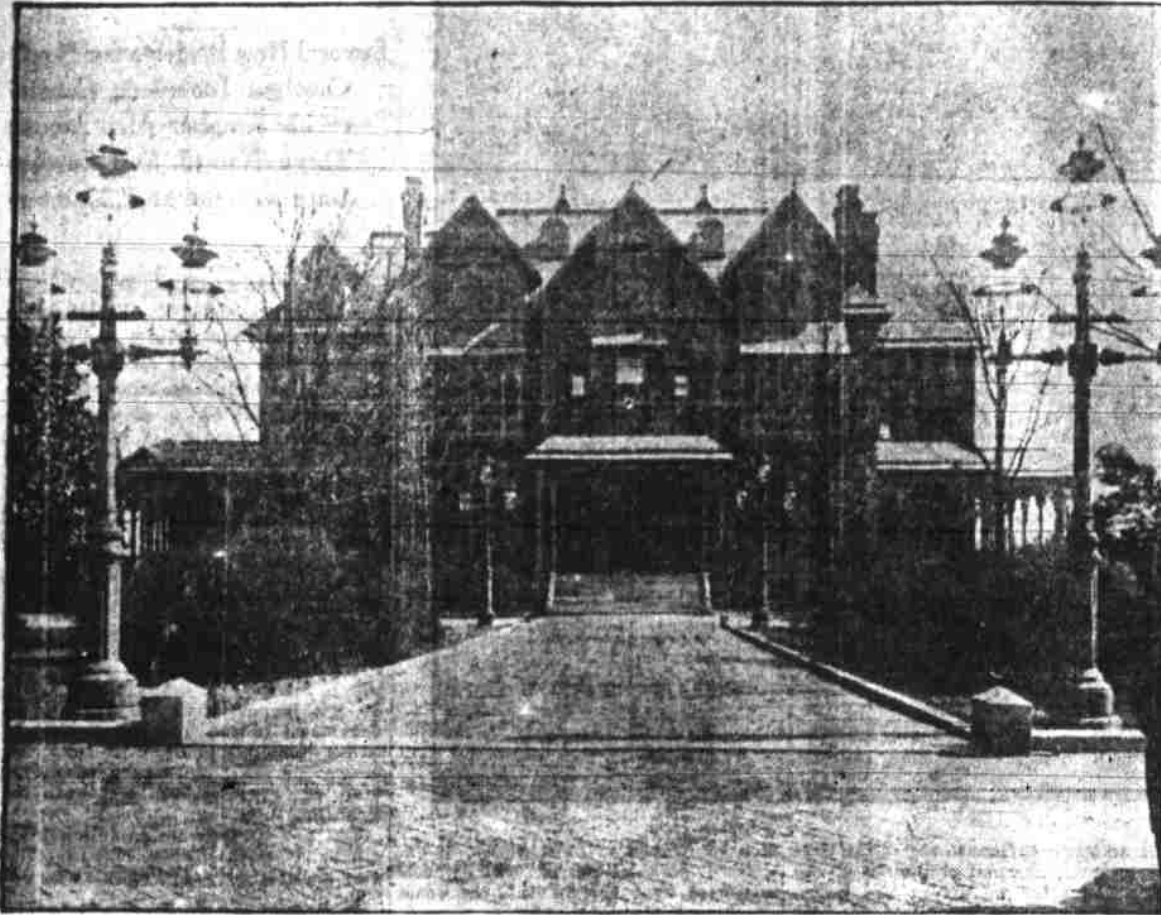
**Present Mansion in Raleigh.** The third—and present—Governor's Mansion is the one now in use. It stands on Burke Square, the site of the old Raleigh Academy, and surpasses all of its predecessors in size and elegance. This mansion (which will become the official home of Governor and Mrs. Bickett today) chiefly owes its existence to the wisdom, foresight, and State pride of that sagacious statesman, the late Governor Jarvis, who in all of his biennial messages, urged its erection and completion. In the course of his message to the General Assembly of 1881, after suggesting that a commission be appointed to erect a Supreme Court Building, he said: "I urge that this commission be authorized to erect on said square (Burke Square) a new and suitable mansion for the Governor. I do not know that I shall care to occupy it myself, but I think the State, by all means, ought to have such a building, and am anxious to see it done during my administration and ready for my successor." He reiterated the same sentiments to the General Assembly of 1883, saying: "I earnestly ask that you provide for the building and furnishing of a Governor's Mansion on the square belonging to the State, known as 'Burke Square' or the 'Lovejoy Grove.' It does not comport with the dignity of the State for the Governor to live at a hotel, where he is unable to dispense the hospitality incumbent upon him and due to the State, to say nothing of the personal inconvenience to himself. I make no personal complaint, but I trust you will provide for my successor, before the expiration of my term, a comfortable home, suitable to his high office and creditable to the State." At last the General Assembly acted on the recommendations of Governor Jarvis, and that gentleman had the satisfaction of reporting in his next (and last) biennial message, that the work was well under way. It took some time to complete the structure, however, and Governor Alfred M. Scales, the immediate successor of Governor Jarvis, went through his entire term before the mansion was finished. Governor Daniel G. Fowle was its first occupant, coming into office after the expiration of the term of Governor Scales. Being a widower at the time of his election, Governor Fowle's daughter, Miss Helen Fowle, (now Mrs. Thomas D. Knight, of Chicago), was the first lady to reside in the new Mansion. On April 8, 1891, while still an occupant of the Mansion, Governor Fowle died, and, since that day, have come Governors Holt, Carr, Russell, Aycock, Glenn, Kitchin, and Craig. Today the Mansion will welcome its ninth official occupant—a gentleman in every way worthy of the exalted post to which he has been called, in the person of Governor Thomas W. Bickett, while no one who knows the Governor's lady can doubt that the past traditions of her new home will be well upheld while she presides over it.



OLD CAPITOL AT RALEIGH.

Construction Begun, 1794—Destroyed by Fire, 1831.

This building stood on the site of the present Capitol, and was the first public building the State erected in Raleigh. Its construction was begun in 1794, and it was finished a few years thereafter. In it the Governors of North Carolina, from the time of its completion up to and including the inauguration of Governor Montfort Stokes, took the oaths of office. On June 21, 1831, during the administration of Governor Stokes this building caught fire from a soldering pot left on the roof by a tinner, and was completely destroyed. With it perished Canova's statue of Washington a world-famous work of art, but most of the State archives were saved.



PRESENT GOVERNOR'S MANSION.

seat of Acting Governor Thomas Pollock. In 1758, Governor Arthur Dobbs, Johnston's successor, purchased a house at Brunswick and called it Castle Dobbs after his ancestral home in Ireland. After the death of Dobbs, his son, Major Edward Brice Dobbs sold it to Governor William Tryon in 1767 and it was thereafter called Castle Tryon.

It was Governor Tryon who conceived and carried out the plan to erect at New Bern (the newly made capital city) a magnificent mansion which be-

and a general storehouse for public property. It was accidentally destroyed by fire on February 27, 1798, in consequence of an old negro woman going into the basement to hunt for hens' eggs and laying down a light wood kind torch in order to gather the eggs. One wing of the building escaped the fire, and may still be seen in New Bern. At present it is a private residence.

**First Mansion in Raleigh.** The first home of the Governors of North Carolina, after the seat of gov-



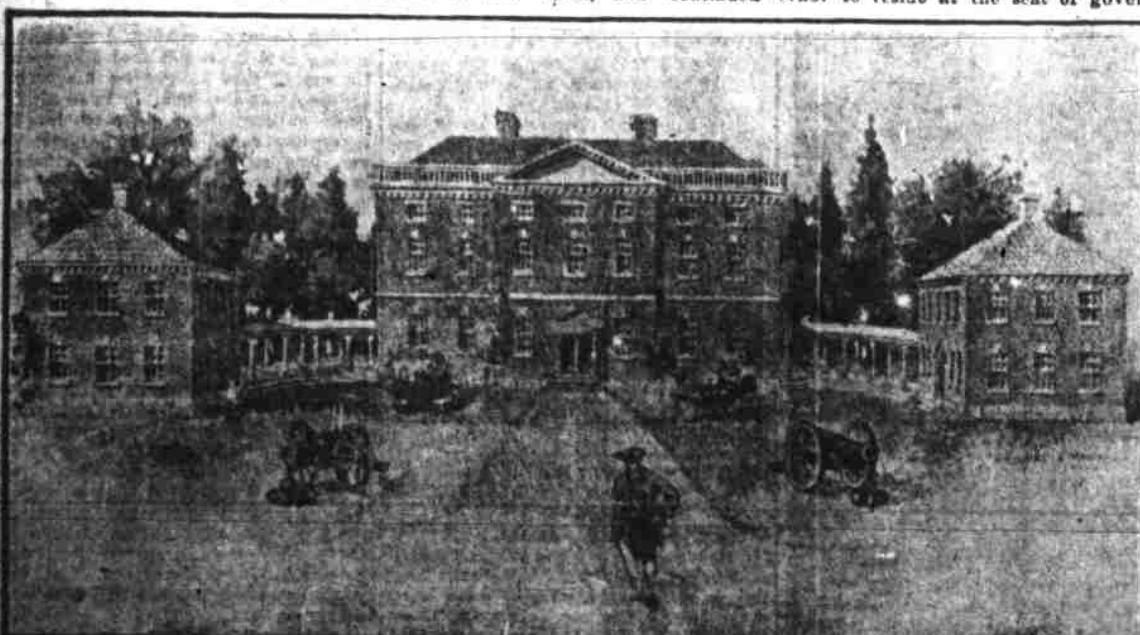
OLD GOVERNOR'S MANSION IN RALEIGH In Use From 1816 Till 1865.

came known as the Tryon Palace, and which was declared by competent authorities to have no equal in design and elegance, on our continent or in South America. Work on this palace—for it was indeed a palace—was begun on August 26, 1767. It was not only a home for the Governor, but also served the purposes of a State House or Capitol, being equipped with halls in which the colonial legislature (composed of

elbow chairs in the middle of the ball-room, bespeak a littleness of mind, which, believe me, sir, when blended with the dignity and importance of your office, renders you truly ridiculous."

After Tryon was transferred to New York, His Excellency Josiah Martin, the last of the Royal Governors of North Carolina, took possession of the Palace at New Bern, and continued

remained was removed to the city of Raleigh, stood on a lot which is located on the southwest corner of Fayetteville and Hargett streets. On the corner itself stood the Executive Office, and a little to the southwest was the Governor's House. In his famous Tucker Hill Address, delivered at Raleigh in 1867, Ex-Governor Swain said: "In 1802, an act was passed requiring the Governor to reside at the seat of govern-



TRYON PALACE AT NEW BERN. Home of the Royal Governors, 1770-1775.

**NORTH CAROLINA CORPORATION COMMISSION**



HON. E. L. TRAVIS



HON. GEORGE P. PELL



HON. W. T. LEE

**T. W. BICKETT**  
In College and Afterwards, By  
By DR. R. T. VANN.

Some time back in the eighties, while I was living at Wake Forest, a young man entered college there from Monroe. He came quietly with hundreds of other lads and moved around among his fellows with nothing in particular to distinguish him from the others. Indeed, it was several months before I knew he was there at all, so quiet was he and so unobtrusive. He had simply come and gone to work.

After a while I began to notice the somewhat stocky looking figure of a boy, with a serious-looking face, going and coming between the college and his boarding house at meal times, and pretty regularly in his place at the chapel services Sunday mornings and nights, listening to what was said, but saying nothing to attract attention. By and by I heard the boys calling him Walter.

That manner of his beginning was characteristic, so far as my observation went. Throughout the first years of college life he impressed me merely as a thoughtful, substantial, steady-going young man and a good student; rather above the average, but not remarkable. I saw no reason to anticipate any unusual career for him, though his teachers and fellow-students may have seen more.

But in his last college year, I think, in attending a declamation contest, among the dozen contestants ranged on the platform, I noticed Walter Bickett, and remember feeling a little sorry for him. For in that list were several boys who had already shown striking gifts of oratory; and my impression was that Bickett had been put up there mainly to make out the even dozen. But when he began to speak, I soon commenced revising my opinion. The boy was so composed, so deliberate, so clear in enunciation, so forcible in delivery, and withal, evinced so much reserve force and individuality, that I was surprised when the judges failed to award him the medal.

And that was the first time I ever saw anything unusual in T. W. Bickett. But after that one experience I should have been surprised if he had not achieved distinction.

**O. MAX GARDNER**  
AN APPRECIATION  
By D. H. HILL,  
Former President A. & M. College.

When it was announced in the papers that O. Max Gardner would be a candidate for the office of Lieutenant-Governor, not a few people who had been attracted by the ability and versatility which young Gardner had shown as President Pro-tem of the Legislature of 1915 began to ask about his attainments. Among other inquirers was an old time Democrat who was not inclined to vote for any man under three-score. Meeting a friend who had served in the Legislature with Gardner, he said:

"Tell me something about this young Gardner who wants to be Lieutenant-Governor. I do not remember that he ever elected so young a man to so high a position. How about him anyhow?"

"Well," answered his legislative friend, "Gardner is a strong fellow and—"

"Push! Push!" interrupted the old gentleman, "don't go into your 'strong fellows' with me. Tell me something specific. We need leaders. In this man capable of leadership? Is he mentally equipped to do us credit in public life? Come to the point."

"All right," laughed the legislator, "I'll do my best to acquaint you with a man whom I like. Men who are leaders in college generally have those attributes that later enable them to lead men. When Gardner was a student at the Agricultural and Mechanical College he had the unique experience of being twice elected captain of the football team and four times the manager of the baseball nine. When he went to the University to study law, he was in his second year, chosen captain of the university football team. In both institutions he was a keen participant in all college activities. He had social tact, was a natural mingler and got managed always to do a fair share of the regular work. He showed then the same democratic interest in all his associates that has marked his subsequent career. He honestly loves his fellow-men, hence they trust and honor him."

"When called on by his party to organize the Young Men's Clubs in 1908 his rapid and successful organization of these clubs demonstrated that his collegiate power had been naturally transferred to wider spheres. In the Legislature of 1911 and 1915 he easily sat in the seats of those who were controlling legislation by thinking in terms of the State."

"Now as to his equipment. His training in a technical college has been, as he foresees, an immense help to him in law and in politics. In laboratory and shop he learned to get at the heart of things and to link clearly cause and effect. His fingers and his brain were there taught to fit theory and practice

### Are You Being Slowly Poisoned?

The most eminent physicians recognize that uric acid stored up in the system is the cause of gout and rheumatism, that this uric acid poison is deposited in the joints, muscles, or nerve-sheath. By experimenting and analysis at the Surgical Institute in Buffalo, N. Y., Dr. Pierce discovered a combination of native remedies that he called Anurie, which drives out the uric acid from the system, and in this way the pain, swelling and inflammation subside. If you are a sufferer from rheumatism, backache, pains here or there, you can obtain Anurie (double strength) at any drug store and get relief from the pains and ills brought about by uric acid.

Swollen hands, ankles, feet are due to a dropsical condition, often caused by disordered kidneys. Naturally when the kidneys are deranged the blood is filled with poisonous uric acid, which settles in the tissues of the feet, ankles, wrists or back as uratic salts; or under the eyes in bag-like formations. It is just as necessary to keep the kidneys acting properly as to keep the bowels active to rid the body of poisons.

The very best possible way to take care of yourself is to take a glass of hot water before meals and an Anurie tablet. In this way it is readily dissolved with the food, picked up by the blood and finally reaches the kidneys, where it has a cleaning and tonic effect.

Stop in the drug store and ask for a 50-cent package of Anurie, or send Dr. Pierce 10c, for trial pkg. Anurie—many times more potent than lithia, eliminates uric acid as hot water melts sugar. A short trial will convince you. —Adv.

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**GILBERT C. WHITE**  
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WATERWORKS, LIGHT AND POWER, STREETS

Railways Land Surveying  
Water Power Municipal Improvements  
**JNO. J. WELLS**  
Civil Engineer  
Rocky Mount - North Carolina

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