

MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 1899.

## SECURED THE WENDELL.

### PLUMB AND CLARK ARE THE NEW PROPRIETORS.

Will Also Retain the New American House.

The predicted change in the management of The Wendell has taken place. Plumb & Clark, for 10 years proprietors of the American house, taking a lease of the hotel, possession being given tomorrow morning. The negotiations have been under way for three weeks, but so secretly have they been carried on that the announcement which was made late last night, was a complete surprise. Plumb & Clark will retain the management of the new American house, and Mr. Plumb will as usual conduct the Maplewood hotel during the summer months.

This action of Mr. Bowerman in leasing the hotel was made upon the suggestion and advice of several men of prominence, who are financially interested in the success of the house. A consultation of interested parties was held shortly after 6 o'clock last night and within half an hour the necessary papers were signed by which Plumb & Clark secure a lease for a term of years. The price is private. The new firm will make a number of changes among the employees, although these changes will be made only after the new firm become acquainted with the manner in which business has been conducted. There will be a general reduction in expenses, the hotel to be run at rates of from \$2 to \$4 per day.

Plans are already being prepared for the building of an addition to the southwest end of the building. This addition will be two stories high and will be used as a kitchen and a laundry. At the present time the kitchen is in a sub-basement, being some 21 feet below the dining room and reached by a spiral staircase. Owing to the travel back and forth, up and down stairs, this greatly handicaps the service. At present the building is not fitted with a laundry. The first floor will therefore be used for the latter purpose, the kitchen being on the second floor and on a level with the dining room.

The leasing of the hotel will allow Mr. Bowerman, the owner of the building, to realize a fair income on his large investment and he will also be relieved of his share of the management of this large hotel. This was his first experience in this line and it has been a most difficult undertaking. The firm of John P. Doyle & Co. will be dissolved and Mr. Doyle will probably return to New York. The financial difficulties in which the hotel has found itself is by no means the fault of Mr. Doyle. When he came to Pittsfield it was under contract, an agreement being signed that a certain sum of money was to be placed to the credit of the house to be used as a working capital, sufficient to permit the prompt payment of all bills and establish the credit of the house. This agreement was not kept and when the hotel was opened it started with an overdraft of its bank account. The manager was forced to pay bills from the receipts for the construction of the house and as would be expected soon found himself in serious trouble. Added to this were personal bills which had to be paid and which never should have been considered, at least by the hotel. Handicapped as he was, Mr. Doyle worked hard and soon gave the hotel a fine reputation throughout the entire country. With good financial backing there would have been none of this trouble and The Wendell today would be on as good footing as any business in the city.

The attachments which have been on the building for several weeks will be released and the keeper immediately dismissed. The financial difficulties have been lifted over, several prominent men coming to the front with the necessary capital. The termination of the difficulties is gratifying to the owner, to the men who have assisted him and to the public generally. Pittsfield retains its handsome hotel and will be pleased to know that it has passed into competent hands.

Messrs. Lindsay and Meserve, who looked over the hotel yesterday with a view of securing a lease, will undoubtedly be surprised to learn the turn affairs have taken. These gentlemen were much pleased with the hotel and it is rumored were about ready to accept the offer made by Mr. Bowerman's representative. The offer of Plumb & Clark, however, proved satisfactory to the men behind the project and the deal was closed last night, without further delay.

Plumb & Clark have practically closed the deal for the management of the American house, although the papers have not been signed. This hotel will be run on much the same plan as The Wendell, the rate, however, being from \$2 to \$4 per day. The work on the new building is being pushed ahead as rapidly as possible and the firm hope to be ready to open it to the public shortly after May 1.

Maplewood will retain its standing as a summer resort. Mr. Plumb, as usual, giving this his personal attention during the summer season. The large addition is well under way and will be ready when the house opens for the coming season.

George W. Clark and Arthur W. Plumb have been in the hotel business in this city for about 10 years, first securing a lease of the American house. Mr. Plumb has conducted the Maplewood hotel as a summer resort for a number of years and given it a reputation second to none. Mr. Plumb, before coming to this city, was for five years in the employ of his uncle, who is proprietor of the Red Lion Inn at Stockbridge.