

School Architecture.

Having procured a number of valuable engravings illustrative of School Architecture, we again renew this interesting department of the *Journal of Education*. The increasing desire to erect a superior class of school-houses in the Cities, Towns, and Villages of Upper Canada has induced us to select for illustration in the early numbers of the *Journal* the better description of school-houses which have been erected within the last few years in the chief Cities and Towns of New England—the best educated portions of this continent. The experience of those Cities and Towns upon the important subject of school house architecture is of double value to us just now, arising from the fact, that in all the school-houses recently erected in New England, the convenience and comfort of both masters and pupils have been the chief points consulted in the selection of the site, the character of the location, and the general external cheerfulness of the building and grounds. The great object has been to make the school a place of present attraction, as well as to render it, with its trees and shrubbery, its pleasant flowers and play ground—the hallowed spot around which all the tender associations of happy school-boy days will for ever delight to cluster and linger—though life hereafter should be one of lengthened toil and anxiety, and the joyous dreams of youth should never be realized. No doubt the same considerations will influence those who are about erecting school-houses in our cities and towns and rural school sections. The experience of others will, therefore, prove of infinite service to them.

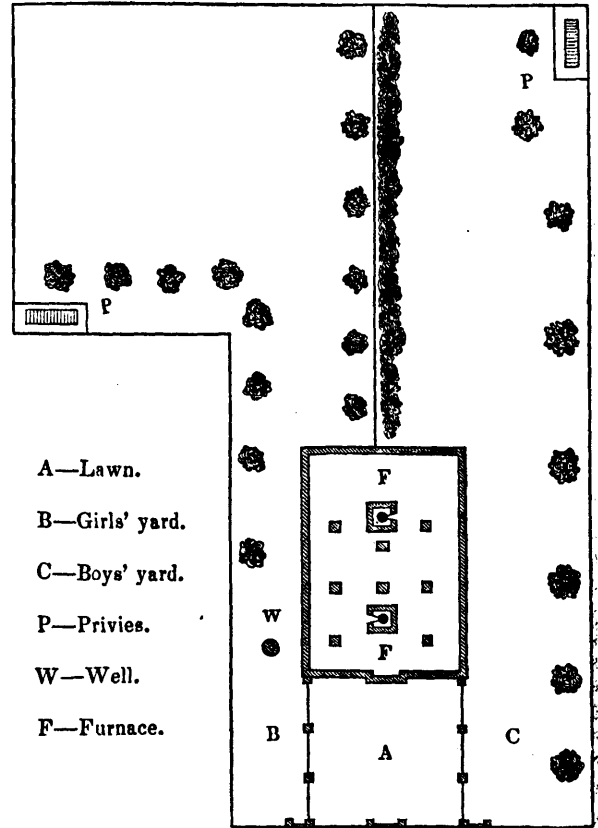
The engraving on our 17th page exhibits a front view of the public school-house erected in the village of Warren, at the expense of the town, in 1847-48, after drawings made by Mr. Test, of Providence, under the directions of a committee of the town, who consulted with the Commissioner of Public Schools, and visited Providence, Boston, Salem, Newburyport and other places, in order to ascertain the latest improvements in school architecture, before deciding on the details of the plan. The Commissioner of Public Schools remarked, in his address at the dedication of the house, in September, 1848, "that, for location, style, construction, means of warming, ventilation, and cleanliness, and for the beauty and convenience of the seats and desks, he had not seen a public school-house superior to this in New England. It is a monument at once of the liberality of the town, and of a wise economy on the part of the committee." The town appropriated \$10,000, and the committee expended \$8,594. The opening of the public school in this edifice was followed by a large increase of attendance from the children of the town.

The lot on which the School-house is erected is 225 deep and 100 feet wide for a depth of 125 feet, and 161 feet wide for the remaining 64 feet. It is divided into three yards, as exhibited in the ground plan, (Fig. 2,) each substantially inclosed, and planted with trees and shrubbery. The dimensions of the building are 62 feet by 44 on the ground. It is built of brick, in the most workmanlike manner. Each room is ventilated by openings, controlled by registers, both at the floor and the ceiling, into four flues carried up in the wall, and by a large flue constructed of thoroughly seasoned boards, smooth on the inside, in the partition wall, (Fig. 3, x.) The whole building is uniformly warmed by two furnaces placed in the cellar. Every means of cleanliness are provided, such as scrapers, mats, sink with pump, wash basin, towels, hooks for outer garments, umbrella stands, &c.

The tops of the desks are covered with cloth, and the aisles are

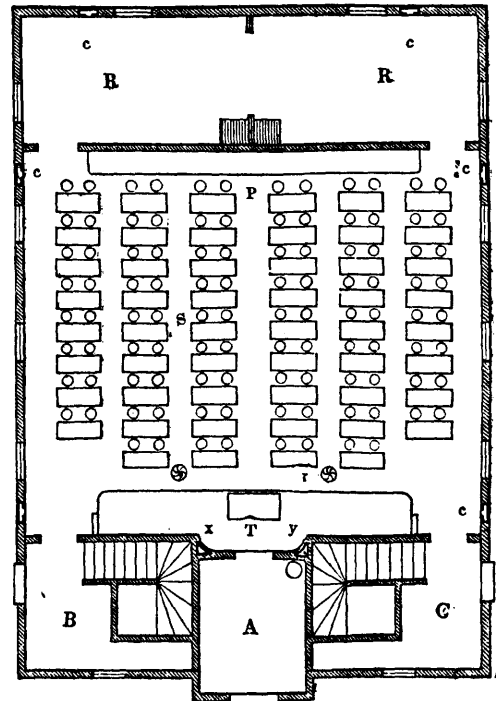
to be cheaply carpeted, so as to diminish, if not entirely prevent, the noise which the moving of slates and books, and the passing to and fro, occasion in a school-room.

Fig. 2.



- A—Lawn.
- B—Girls' yard.
- C—Boys' yard.
- P—Privies.
- W—Well.
- F—Furnace.

Fig. 3—FIRST FLOOR.



- A—Front entrance for Masters, &c.
- B—Girls' entrance, with mats, scrapers, hooks for clothes, a sink, pump, basin, &c.
- C—Boys' entrance, with do., do.
- R—Recitation rooms, connected by sliding doors.
- P—Platform for recitation, with a blackboard in the rear.
- T—Teacher's platform.
- S—Seats and desks. See *Journal of Education* for January and July, 1849, pages 13 and 101.
- Q—Library and apparatus.
- w—Windows, with inside Venetian blinds.
- c—Flues for ventilation in the outer wall.
- x—Flue for ventilation, lined with smooth, well seasoned boards.
- y—Bell-rope, accessible to the teacher by an opening in the wall.
- r—Hot air registers.