

The Parliament Building is on the highest part of the ground, and its basement floors are about 159 feet above the ordinary summer water level of the Ottawa River. Those of the Eastern and Western Blocks are respectively 135 feet 8 inches and 142 feet 8 inches over the same datum.

A continuous carriage road has been made all round the square, and extended northward at both ends of the Parliament Building towards the Speakers' Towers, and also along the southern fronts of the Departmental Buildings.

The entrances to the grounds are opposite Elgin and Metcalf streets. From these points the roads incline gently to within a short distance of the Parliament Building, where they ascend by a steeper grade to the level of a wide terrace, which has been formed along the southern front of that structure.

The square has been graded to a gradual rise from the road which runs parallel with Wellington street up to the foot of the terrace, and to a plane corresponding to the levels of the Eastern and Western Blocks.

All the Buildings are constructed in what may be termed the Pointed Gothic style of architecture, and from the bold, broken outline they present—their numerous towers, high pitched, variegated slate roofs, pierced by dormers and surmounted by ornamental wrought iron cresting and terminals, together with the quaintness of the carved figures, combine to produce an imposing and picturesque effect.

The outer facing of the walls is principally composed of a light colored, compact sandstone, obtained from the Township of Nepean, at a distance of about 12 miles from the city. The dressings, stairs, gables, pinnacles, &c., are chiefly of a greyish colored freestone, from the State of Ohio, and the relieving arches over the door and window openings are of a reddish sandstone, from Potsdam, in the northern part of New York State. The slates are generally of a dark color, with bands of a lighter hue placed at intervals. They were obtained in the State of Vermont.

The foundations and interior portions of the walls are of limestone, quarried in the vicinity. The division walls and lining of the external walls are chiefly of brick, manufactured either at Ottawa or at other places in the Province.

The marble used in the Buildings was principally obtained from Arnprior and other places on the Ottawa River.

The valley of the Ottawa also supplied the timber used in the construction, with the exception of the oak, which had to be brought from other parts of the Province.

## PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

### SOUTHERN FRONT.

The southern façade of this Building is, as already stated, 472 feet long. It is three stories in height, the basement being entirely over the ground line; the top of the main cornice is about 45 feet in height, and the front is divided into five horizontal bands, by belt-courses at the sills and springing of the doors and window openings of the different stories. This produces a degree of regularity, which is, however, broken by the heavy projections of the central and wing towers.

The central Tower is about 30 feet square, exclusive of the angle buttresses, which are of an octagonal shape, and terminate in open, clustered columns, surmounted by pinnacles with carved finials. It is divided by belt-courses into five unequal vertical spaces, in the lowest of which are lofty archways (embracing the height of the basement and ground floors) on three of its sides. These are constructed of deeply-cut mouldings, enriched with carving, and ranges of marble columns. They open into a groined carriage porch, in front of the main entrance, the latter having the Royal Arms, elaborately carved, over the doorway.