

ALTERATIONS AT OSGOODE HALL.

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Some time ago when enquiries were made as to the possibility of Osgoode Hall being provided with some of the necessaries, not to say conveniences, which are to be found in public buildings in these days, we were told to wait until the proposed addition should be built, and that then we should see what we should see. It was thought by some that it would be a simple matter to provide a tap, a pump, or a fountain, where one could get some cold water to drink; others thought it would be an inexpensive luxury to add to the water some soap and towels wherewith to perform the simple operation of washing ones' hands; it occurred to others again, who had not recently come from the free backwoods, that a water-closet would not be amiss. There was, moreover, a serious want of some accommodation in the way of barrister's consultation rooms, where arbitrations of a certain class could occasionally be held, a law reporter's room, a room for short-hand writers, &c. It was also felt to be a want that there was no place where a cup of coffee and a crust of bread could be obtained within the walls of the building by a famished profession. These and many other things were spoken of as being in prospect when the millennial time of the new addition should come. But the additions have been made, and we are amazed and disappointed to find that in no one respect have the above mentioned requirements been supplied. This is bad enough, but there are other matters which we fear will hereafter be sources of discomfort and consequent complaint.

The sum of \$25,000 was appropriated by the Province by a vote of the House of Assembly for additional accommodation, mainly for the use of the Court of Appeal, but partly also with reference to

the requirements of the Court of Chancery. The appropriation was supplied by the unclaimed balances in the latter Court and accumulated interest. The authorities of the Court of Chancery thought, under the circumstances, that this money should be applied towards providing increased accommodation for that Court and greater security for their records. It was thought proper, however, to use the money for both purposes, and one flat of the new building has been devoted to the use of the Master's Office, giving ample accommodation to the officials of that important department. The sum expended has been about \$18,000. The further sum of \$4,500 was placed in the estimates for general repairs, and devoted to painting the hall and Courts.

No one passing the front of the hall along Queen street would suppose that such a large sum had been expended, inasmuch as the addition has been placed directly in rear of the centre of the old building. This has probably been done with a view to connect the Court room of the highest court in the Province with the hall from which it opens. This was a laudable object in itself, but the effect has been disastrous, in reference to some consequent details.

(1) It has destroyed the previous convenient arrangements for the accommodation of the Common Law Judges; (2) The addition is practically inaccessible from the main building; (3) The effect would have been vastly better and the expense but little, if anything, more if the new building had been placed in rear of the Court of Chancery with its face towards College Avenue. This would also have obviated what cannot but be looked upon as the unfortunate results of its present location, hereafter referred to. It was, we believe, the practical suggestion of the present learned Chief Justice of Ontario, whilst a Senator, to make arrangement with the county to build a