



Vol. III.—No. 64.

FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 24, 1866.

SEVEN CENTS.

THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, OTTAWA.

WE, this week, devote all the space at our command to illustrations of the Parliamentary Buildings at Ottawa. Our readers will thus have, in a form suitable for preservation, four distinct views of those splendid buildings, which, whether regard be had to commanding site, magnificence of design, or to the grandeur of the surrounding scenery, are without a rival on this continent. The buildings, as most of our readers are aware, are situated on what was formerly known as Barrack Hill, and are widely detached, forming three sides of a quadrangle; the main building facing Wellington street, and the Departmental buildings, which form two sides of the square, facing inwards. The style of the building is Gothic, of the 12th and 13th century.

The Parliament Building, as approached from Wellington street, presents a very imposing appearance. The central of the seven towers, which is very rich in design, projects its width from the front of the building. The body of the building in front is about forty feet high, above which rises the slanting roofs of slate, surmounted by lines of ornamental iron cresting. The length of the building is 471½ feet, and its depth from the front of the main tower to the rear of the library is 570 feet, covering an area of 82,886 superficial feet, or about three and

seven-tenths acres. It stands at a distance of about 600 feet from the street, so that the quadrangle formed on three sides by the buildings and on the fourth by Wellington street, is 700 feet from east to west, and 600 feet from north to south; thus affording a very spacious square. The ground upon which the buildings stand varies somewhat in elevation, that portion forming the site of the Parliamentary Building being the highest; but this inequality of surface rather than otherwise improves the general effect. The Parliament Building contains the Legislative Council, Legislative Assembly Library, and a large number of committee and clerks' rooms. A corridor, which is to be used as a picture gallery, connects the Library with the main building.

The Eastern block of the Departmental Buildings is a very irregular and picturesque pile. It is 245 feet on the West front, and 319 feet on the South. In this building are situated the Governor General's Office, the Executive Council room, the President of the Council, the Minister of Finance, and Audit Office, the offices of the attorneys and Solicitors General for Upper and Lower Canada; the Provincial Secretary; Provincial Registrar and the Bureau of Agriculture, Patents and Statistics. There is also a large model room connected with the Patent Department. From the Eastern front of these buildings, extensive views are obtained, embracing the lower part of the city, and the country stretching beyond.

The Western block of the Departmental Buildings is similar in style to that just described, but more regular in its construction and not quite so large, being 220 feet long on the East front or that which looks over the square, and 277 feet on the South front or that which faces Wellington Street. It is somewhat less imposing as to its main entrance, a circumstance which is probably accounted for by the fact of the Governor General's room and the Executive Council Chamber being in the Eastern block. In it are located the Crown Lands Department, the Board of Works, the Post Office Department, and the Adjutant General's Office and Militia Department. The West front of these buildings looks upon the Upper Town, and beyond it towards the Chaudière Falls, and Hull, and gives a fine view of the wooded shore on that side of the river and the distant range of hills beyond, including an extensive view of the river and its banks, stretching to the southwest in the direction of Aylmer. Similar or still more extensive views are obtained from the west front or end of the Parliament Building.

The Government Buildings at Ottawa have been erected at a cost and on a scale somewhat disproportionate to the Provincial finances or requirements. Happily, however, this disproportion will no longer exist when Ottawa has become, as in all probability it shortly will, the seat of Government of a great Confederation. So mote it be.



PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, OTTAWA—VIEW FROM THE SHORE, NEAR HULL.