

# The Canadian Architect and Builder

C. H. MORTIMER PUBLISHING COMPANY

PUBLISHERS.

W. A. LANGTON

EDITOR.

OFFICES: CONFEDERATION LIFE BUILDING, TORONTO, CANADA.

VOL. XVIII.—NO. 207.

MARCH, 1905.

## ILLUSTRATIONS ON SHEETS.

Cottages on the Estate of Charles Francis Adams, from the Brickbuilder.  
 English Cottages—From The County Gentleman.  
 House on Manning Ave., Toronto. Messrs. Chadwick & Beckett, Architects.  
 House for Mr. I. C. Chambers, Winnipeg. F. R. Evans, Architect.

## ADDITIONAL ILLUSTRATIONS IN ARCHITECTS' EDITION.

Front of St. Augustine's Church, Pittsburg. Messrs. Rutan & Russell, Architects.  
 Drawing by Mr. Wilson Eyre in the Eighteen Club Exhibition.

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At a meeting of the Canadian Institute on March 18th, Mr. J. P. Hynes read an interesting paper on the subject of civic improvements, with special reference to Toronto. Many lantern slides were shown, of improvements in other cities. Those in the United States come nearest to the case of Toronto, and especially in the cities of Cleveland and Buffalo, which like Toronto are situated on a lake and have their railroad approach along its shores. Thus the railway stations and the boat landings are in the same quarter, and it is both convenient and striking to combine them so as to make one grand "Entrance" to the city. In Cleveland they have arranged to group the principal public buildings at this spot, and Buffalo is going to do so too; making of the whole a distinct and ornamental "Civic Centre". This, which was the starting point of Mr. Hynes' lecture, was not received without some opposition, in the discussion which followed.

The truth is that there is some danger in plumping a city's principal buildings upon a site so close to a railroad; especially in combination with a park space, for which, even more than for fine buildings, smoke and cinders are contra-indicated. It was not, however, on this ground that the objection was raised, but on the more subtle but stronger ground of its crudity. The World's Fair undoubtedly started the idea of city planning, but it can hardly be taken as a model of how to proceed. Display is not the happiest end of beauty; and it is not unlikely that the generations to which the United States are working up will wish their ancestors had had a more engaging conception.

The task of city planning is something more difficult

than this sort of Beaux Arts project. It is a process not of creation but of development. There are, it is true, features and needs which most American cities, in the north, have in common; and Mr. Hynes' plea for a civic centre in the neighborhood of the City Hall is justified on the ground of the stability it gives to property and the encouragement it holds out to development there in a permanent way. This centre, as far as locality is concerned, is almost established now in Toronto, and will be finally assured when the radial avenues are run, which have been already called for by the extension of the city to N. E. & N. W. But the tendency of public buildings in Toronto is upward, in the brighter part of the city; where is already a park that any city might be proud of. This and her other individualisms should be the basis of improvements for Toronto's plan. This is concrete application. The study of the plans of other cities is only general culture in the art.

**Advertising Letters.** We have a communication from a firm of architects who wish to ventilate a complaint as to the number of letters they receive from manufacturers and their agents, asking whether their goods are specified on certain work for which tenders have been called, or whether anything in their line is specified, &c., &c. Part of the complaint is that there is no self addressed envelope and no stamp, and the letters must be consigned to the waste-paper basket.

If our correspondent were to comment upon his own letter, he could hardly fail to see that this latter point is the key to the situation. These correspondents do not expect an answer. It is enough for their purpose if