

Rural Architecture.

A Good Country House.

The designs here presented are of a comfortable family residence for a prosperous farmer; but are

equally suitable for a village house. It is a commodious structure, and provides all the conveniences required for either purpose. The size of the main building, as drawn, is 36 by 34 ft., and of the lean-to, 24 by 21 ft. The drawings are for a frame house, but can, of course, be used for brick or stone.

It will be seen that the main building is so separated from the wing, as to enable the work-hands to enter the latter by a different door and have their apartments to themselves—the rooms of the family being all in the main building. The cellar is built of stone, with a convenient stair down to it—and it can be made as large as desired. The attic story has a good stair-way leading up to it, and can be finished off, if desired, so as to provide two large rooms.

Brick flues provide thoroughly for heating the rooms and halls—and ample provision is also made in the way of pantries and closets. A bath-room is included in the plan, with access from the nursery and the kitchen.

The roof is somewhat in the Swiss style. It projects considerably over the walls and affords protection against rain and snow-storms. The roofing can be done either with shingles or slate laid in mortar or on asphalt felting.

The outside walls are intended to be sheathed by 4-inch narrow sheathing, beaded, nailed to rough-boarding, diagonally, which is covered with asphalt felt, or better even, with the newly introduced—*cane and tobacco felting*. This secures a warm house in winter, which is a great saving of fuel. The frame ought to be a strong one, well braced on corners.

A house like this where lumber and stone are near at hand, may be erected at a cost of between \$2,500 and \$2,800, including venetian blinds to the windows and proper painting inside and out. The roofing over the bed-room attached to the nursery may be of felt or galvanized iron.

It has been well said by a western cotemporary that no inhabited country can be really beautiful without neat and tasteful dwellings for the people. No home can be the true "Home, sweet home" of the poet unless, no matter how humble, it outwardly evinces the sweetness, the purity and the grace that exist within. To meet the true and rational idea of a handsome rural house, the lavish expenditure of money is not needful. A beautiful

landscape is almost as often ruined, in its effect, by a costly, but ill-proportioned and unsightly dwelling, as by the unpretentious, yet shabbily built and more shabbily kept cabin. There is an elegance in simplicity that is harmonious and appropriate, in country houses, which the expenditure of wealth can hardly heighten. Cheap, or moderately cheap houses, need not be outwardly ill-shaped nor inwardly incon-

venient. The love of adornment is innate in man. The very savage rudely practices the ornamentation of his body, and he decorates his habitation, however primitive it may be. In civilized man this natural taste becomes educated, and he distinguishes himself in the proper expression of it, by his selection of a site

Woburn Abbey, by the statement of Montbrison. Four and six-roomed houses for working-men are now built in London and Paris, at a cost extremely low in comparison with buildings of other materials, and with evident system and thoroughness, and

in the United States concrete buildings are being extensively erected.

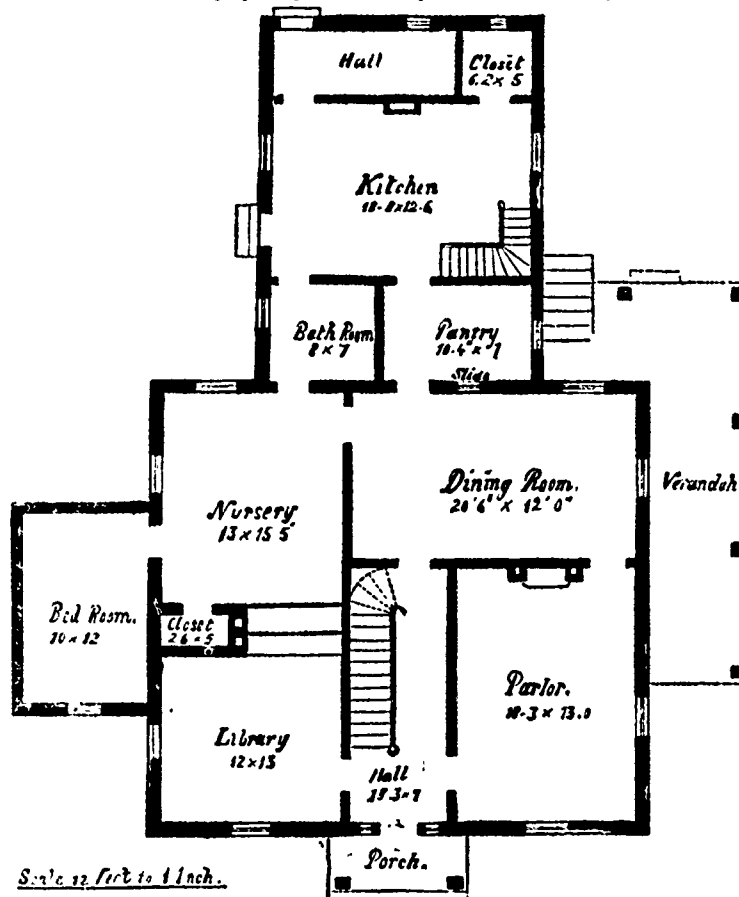
There are three methods of making a good concrete. The ordinary mode, and the one most successful and most economical, where the locality supplies sand and gravel, is thus described by the eminent U. S. architect, Mr. D. T. Atwood:—

In the case of a medium size building, two stories high, plan to build the wall 12 in. thick; construct moulds of rough 1½ or 2 in. plank, about 8 ft. long, 12 in. wide, and 12 in. deep. If a number of piers are likely to occur, between doors and windows, less than the length of a mould in breadth, then construct some shorter moulds to accommodate these piers as nearly as possible, secure the moulds together, and in their proper position, by fastening the four lower corners with ¾-inch wrought iron rods with screw thread and nuts on the outer ends, to turn up on the outside faces of the plank, until they are adjusted to the thickness of wall. Secure the tops with iron holdfasts of 1 x 1 inch wrought iron, to fit down over the top edges of the plank, and made somewhat like a shoemaker's measuring rule with one sliding end to adjust to any thickness of wall, the sliding foot fastened by an iron pin from behind and passing through the horizontal arm, as shown in the annexed figure.

The mould is disengaged after the wall has set sufficiently, by turning off the nuts at the bottom on one side, and lifting up the clamps at the top, the



FAMILY RURAL COTTAGE—FRONT ELEVATION.



Size 32 feet to 1 inch.

GROUND FLOOR.

for his home, the construction of his buildings, the grouping of trees and shrubbery, and by tastefully laid out walks and well kept lawns.