

properties of the building ; the woodbeing such a good conductor, carries the sound along such distances, that without the galleries hearing would be very difficult. This is clearly demonstrated in churches and public halls where there is only an end gallery ; the acoustic properties of such buildings are generally very defective, where such buildings are of large dimensions.

The most effective and perhaps the best forms of ceiling for this country, where the cold is sometimes so intense, is a flattened arch, the purlieus and beams showing under the ceiling and forming a series of panels : another good form is sloping sides and flats in the centre. Either of these roofs can be constructed in an economical manner and with good effect both in appearance and for hearing.

The pulpit should be so placed as to give every one in the church an opportunity of seeing and hearing to advantage. In order to effect this, we would recommend a platform pulpit, providing the gallery is properly arranged in the manner described. A simple desk raised on an elevated platform is now the form adopted by the majority of our public speakers ; this gives more freedom to the minister, and does away in a great measure with the isolation between the speaker and his audience. We can speak from experience in this respect, as the good effect of lowering the pulpit in Zion Church, Toronto, has become very apparent to us all.

We will now consider what is the best style for church architecture. It is generally admitted that the Gothic style is the most appropriate and becoming, it having for many centuries been the style connected with the Christian religion, and, indeed, we might say, having grown out of it. The Grecian and Roman temples, being constructed for the peculiar rites and ceremonies of the Pagan religion, were never proper types of temples for the worship of the true God. But the Gothic has other peculiarities to recommend it—the steep roof, the ease with which large spaces can be enclosed under one span at an expense far less than can be effected in buildings erected in the classic style. The steep roof, the tapering spire and pinnacles, all pointing upwards, and seeming to lead the mind from earthly thoughts to things above, teaching us thus not to set our hearts too much on things of time, but to remember that all earthly things soon pass away, should influence us not to erect our churches in a spirit of grudging economy and parsimony, but to build in the same spirit as did Solomon in the erection of his magnificent Temple for the worship of God. We have even more reason for giving of our substance to God now than the Israelites had when they brought of their offerings in such abundance that they had to be restrained from giving more.

We think our churches, as a general thing, should be much better built than they are. There are very few new churches built where, if the people had been actuated by the same zeal for spiritual things as they are for temporal, they would have been beautifully finished and fitted, and made as attractive as a church should be which has to answer such a noble purpose. There would have been no need to cramp the energies of the architect, limiting the expense to such a degree that many a good and fitting design has had to be thrown aside for one which does no credit to the builders or any one connected with it. We think this is wrong altogether, and our only hope of seeing church architecture brought to that state of perfection which it is entitled to take, is by educating the people to give as freely of their means to build God's Kingdom up in this world, as they spend in the frivolities of time, which can only be enjoyed for a fleeting space, then to pass away for ever.

TORONTO, Jan. 21st, 1874.

EASTERN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—The annual tea-meeting of this church was held last evening in the lecture room, and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather was well attended. The pastor presided. The customary reports were read, and addresses delivered by Revs. C. Chapman, C. H. Brooks, J. Howell, the pastor and Mr. Peter Wood. From the reports the church appeared to be in a satisfactory and encouraging state, the finances amounting to more than last year, besides \$150 raised by the ladies towards a building fund.—*Witness.*