

those of Niagara ; beyond can be traced the island-dotted rapids of the Upper Ottawa. This river must be always interesting on account of its slides, booms, and distinctive race of lumbermen ; it is only seen however to its full advantage in the spring of the year, with high water, crowded with rafts. The group of buildings form a most picturesque object from every approach to the city, and can be seen at a great distance.

The Parliament Buildings stand on a high plateau of some 30 acres in area. The buildings form three sides of a quadrangular figure, and are widely detached. The Parliament or main building facing Wellington street ; and the Departmental Buildings facing inwards to the square and forming the other two sides of the figure. The splendour of these Buildings, their fine commanding site, together with the beauty of the surrounding scenery, place them in a very enviable position—compared with all other structures used for similar purposes on this continent, and some say, even in Europe—and must ever make them objects of interest to the tourist and the stranger.

The style of the Buildings is the Gothic of the 12th and 13th Centuries, with modification to suit the climate of Canada. The ornamental work and the dressing round the windows are of Ohio sandstone. The plain surface is faced with a cream-colored sandstone of the Potsdam formation, obtained from Napean, a few miles from Ottawa. The spandrels of the arches, and the spaces between window-arches and the sills of the upper windows, are filled up with a quaint description of stone-work, composed of stones of irregular size, shape and colour, very neatly set together. These with the Potsdam red sandstone employed in forming the arches over the windows, afford a pleasant variety of colour and effect, and contrast with the general masses of light coloured sandstone, of which the body of the work is composed.

This Building, as you approach 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, and when completed, will be about 180 ft. high. The body of the building in front is forty feet high, above which rises the slanting roofs of slate, surmounted by lines of ornamental iron cresting. The building is 472 feet long ; and the 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. It stands at a distance of 600 feet from Wellington street, so that the quadrangle formed on three sides by the Buildings and on the fourth by the street, is 700 feet from east to west, and 600 feet from north to south ; thus affording a very spacious square.