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From the British American Cultivator, No. 1.

CHEAP HOUSES.

There has been within the last four years introduced in this District, a style of houses as yet comparatively unknown to other parts of the Province. We feel a pleasure in bringing it into general notice, as it will, no doubt, be brought into general use as soon as its good qualities are fully known. The houses constructed on this style are denominated "the unburnt brick house." The few brief hints we intend to give at this time on the subject, will be more to elicit correspondence than to give a detailed description of the process of building. If those who are more acquainted with the matter than we are, should fail to give the particulars, we will advert to it in our next, and endeavour, by the ensuing spring to give creditable testimonials in their favour, and clearly elucidate the subject to the understanding of all classes who take an interest in reading our Journal. These buildings cost about the same price as a frame, and a farmer who could do much of the work within himself, could erect the walls of such a building nearly as cheap as shingled logs. The material for the brick is prepared much in the same manner as for common brick, with the exception of its being mixed with straw. The dimensions of the brick are 6 inches thick, 8 inches wide, and 18 inches long. A number of houses have been built this last summer by contract, at the rate of £1 per hundred bricks (including making) containing an area of 75 feet of wall. The walls of a house, 30 feet square and 15 feet high, at that rate would cost only £34. The common practice is to rough-cast, and then built upon a good stone wall, are considered the warmest and most durable house that we have. There are within a circuit of 10 miles of this city, at least 200 of those houses, and the most of them have been built within the last 2 years. We have seen houses, barns, stables, and sheds built upon the same plan. All seem to be satisfied, and recommend their neighbours "to go and do likewise." Much credit is due to the person who introduced this valuable plan of buildings in our country, and if any are solicitous to hear further on the subject, he would no doubt answer, through the columns, any inquiries that may be made.

From the British American Cultivator, No. 2.

Sir,—As you have requested me to furnish you with such information as I possess, respecting the new style of building alluded to in your last, and as I should be truly glad to aid you, in the smallest degree, in your laudable undertaking, especially in attempting to spread the knowledge of an invention in which I have always been deeply interested. I shall not scruple to lay before your readers a plain statement of what I know about it. Perhaps I shall be pardoned for stating, at the outset, that if I am not the person who introduced the fashion into this country, at least I am not aware of any individual attempt of the kind, on this side of the Atlantic, till I erected my driving-house in 1835. Indeed I am a little cautious on this point; for it would give me the highest gratification to be considered the originator of an invention so useful as this, and so particularly adapted to the wants of the climate. Nothing, it is said, contributes so much to stamp the character of a people, in the estimation of strangers, as the style of the dwellings they inhabit. Whether, sir, I shall get the credit of a successful projector or not, I can assure you I had my share of the obloquy which projectors have to put up with at the beginning. You would have been amused to have heard the thousand reflections cast upon my judgment by passers-by, when they found me occupied in building with mud." Some said that of course the first rains would wash it all level, and that there would be no passing along the turnpike road for the dirt which would inundate it. Others thought that length, but were nevertheless quite positive that it would never stand the intense frosts of this country, which, they said, would crumble it into dust in a single season. Taken as a whole, the only gentlemen who gave me an encouraging word were a few of Dutch descent, who frequently said, "let it go on, that will be a good invention." With the generality of people my hand-work was as much an object of ridicule as ever the palace

which the Russian Empress built of ice could be to the beholders. You will not therefore think it strange that I should wish to get the credit of it, now the thing has succeeded. Great improvements have been effected, by myself and others, in the details, since that my first effort. And, proceeding from this, as the head quarters of the system, this style of building has been more and more adopted, in many instances by gentlemen of the first consequence, without my having yet heard of a case where any one is dissatisfied with it on trial. Since finding that it so fully answered my expectations, I have lost no opportunity of recommending it to others on every occasion, and I know that you will be doing a great public good, and gain applause for yourself by widely extending, as you sir will have the power of doing, the knowledge of this method through the province. That I consider the material quite good enough for the construction of a handsome house, is proved by the attempt which my friends and neighbours know I have been engaged this last summer in making, to produce a dwelling which shall not do discredit to the township. I have been also repeatedly applied to for instructions by gentlemen anxious to adopt this plan, and have sent workmen in consequence into various districts, and in two or three instances into the States.

You call this style, as many others do, "the unburnt brick house," and we frequently also hear it called "mud-building." I would not quarrel with the name of anything, if it was not calculated to mislead.—And as I think it of consequence to give this art a correct appellation, I will venture to suggest the name of "clay-building."—The first thought which "unburnt brick" conveys, is of the very thing which the brick-maker produces, except that it is not burnt. This is by no means the case, and persons unacquainted with the matter, excepting by the name, might dismiss it, as being an absurd thing to save the expense of burning where fuel is so cheap. On the other hand, persons hearing it called "mud-building," might hastily suppose that any soil in the state commonly called mud would serve the purpose, and this might lead to lamentable failures. If you call it "clay-building," you name it after an ingredient which it must possess in order to succeed, and possessing which in any considerable proportion, it can hardly fail. The Devonshire and Hampshire buildings, from which the hint was borrowed, are called *cob-walls*, but they are not exactly raised in the manner we now practice and recommend.

I have said, sir, that these buildings may be constructed with any description of clay, but I think the strong blue clay the best.—It need not however be so pure and free from stones as the brick-maker requires. (as it is well known that the least mixture of limestone spoils earth for bricks intended to be burnt). On the contrary, for our purpose, I believe that the clay is all the better for containing a large proportion of small stones or gravel, or that the same might judiciously be mixed with it, if convenient, and that, in that case, no straw would be required. The small stones or gravel would, by themselves, be quite sufficient to give the requisite solidity and binding nature to the material, and showing here and there on the surface, they would give an admirable hold to the plaster which is subsequently to be applied. I believe that the clay and small stones well kneaded together, do in the course of time grow into a solid mass, though I must leave to the learned to explain how that takes place. I remember well, when I used, many years since, to be sometimes at Muddiford in Hampshire, a place on the sea coast, I observed how small chunks of blue clay, from the under soil of the surrounding land, when they came by any accident in the way of the tide, used to be carried backwards and forwards by the ebbing and flowing of the sea, rolling up with them the sand and small pebbles, till they grew to be frequently as big as a flour barrel, and then, if cast by a storm on the dry land, they would lie there and harden into the solidity of a rock, and it was from a piece of them that the shoemakers used to make their lap-stones.—This was the school, I used to think, where the builders of that country, many, many generations before, first learnt to make their cob-walls; for there are buildings of that sort at Christ Church, close by, which are said to be six hundred years old.

If the clay be pure, and gravel or small stones not procurable,