

lean forward supporting his elbows on his knees, and his head in his hands, inclining either to the right or to the left; and sometimes one or two of the pupils who have pre-arranged their plans, will perhaps, unperceived by the others, draw the form from the wall, thus causing the fall of one or two of the children, or even of the whole form.

If the form is near a table or desk, the pupil will lean on them, and thus continually remain in an ungainly and unhealthy posture affecting his lungs, and capable of producing on feeble constitutions, weakness and distortion of the spine. (1).

Many young persons, when leaving their schools or colleges, are high shouldered on one side, which can only be attributed to this cause, and several physicians of high standing in their profession, have assured us that in their opinion, to this may be also partly attributed the progressive increase of consumption, in this country.

In the United States, throughout the greater part of Upper Canada, and in the Normal schools in Lower Canada, desks and seats, made after a plan intended to remedy all the evil tendencies above enumerated, are now in general use; and we think that we cannot do better than to transfer to our pages, for the benefit of our readers, the wood cuts which we have had copied from those in the excellent work, by Mr. Barnard, on *School Architecture*.

The high price of these desks and seats may, in some instances be objected to, but those made after the design in the first model may be had at a very reasonable price, especially if, instead of the iron supports for the seats, a block of wood be substituted, care however being taken, to have them well fastened to the floor.

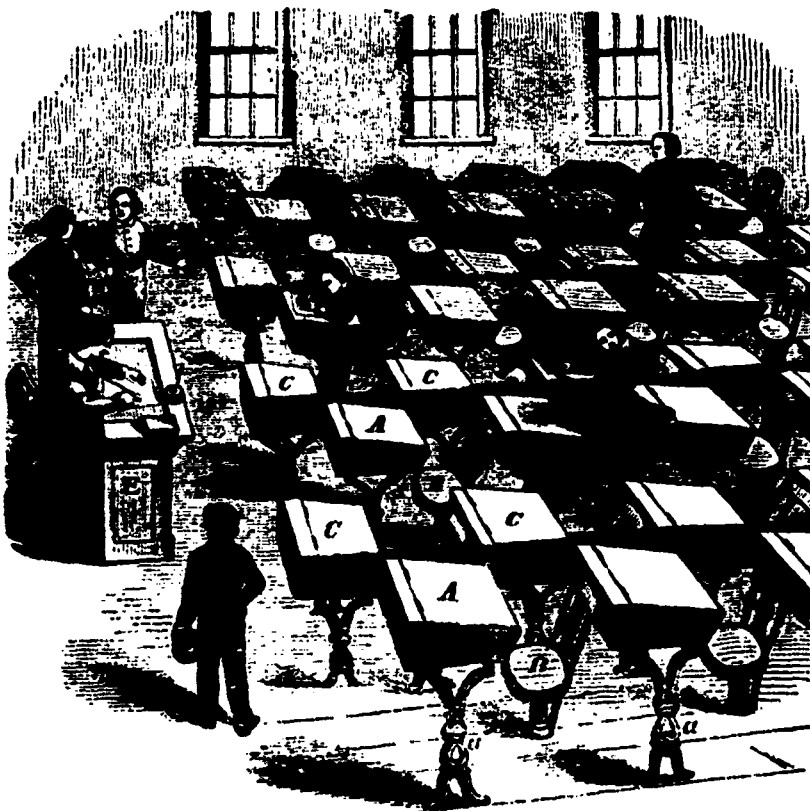
The backs of these seats, will, according to this design,

(1) Horace Greeley, Esquire, the celebrated editor of the *New York Tribune* goes even farther; he pretends that we should not lean forward when writing, and that the table or desk on which we write should be as high as the chest; he attributes the excellent health which he now enjoys, notwithstanding the arduous nature of his occupation, to the habit that he contracted when young, of writing at a high desk. We not only heard him make this remark, ourselves, but we also saw him when delivering a lecture at the Mechanic's Institute, at a high desk, which had certainly a most singular effect.

form the supports for the desks of the ranges next behind them, and are particularly adapted for elementary schools. The seats should be so made as to allow the feet of the pupil to touch the floor, and that his leg and thigh be kept in a rectangular position. The back of the seat should also have the inclination necessary to allow the pupil to lean back while in the position above indicated. The seats and desks should be arranged in amphitheatrical form, the lowest seats

nearest the teacher, gradually increasing in height to the last row. In elementary classes the height of the seats should vary in the manner above mentioned, from 9½ to 17 inches.

The next wood cut represents a double desk with two seats fixed on iron supports. Instead of a plain slope for the pupil to place his books, &c. on, there is a desk. This second cut represents as nearly as possible, the seats and desks used in our normal schools, which have, however, an immovable inkstand fixed in the front, as represented by figure 3. In the model school the pupils have neither drawer nor desk,



but a board underneath to hold their slates and books. Some professors are averse to using desks that open perpendicularly, as shewn by Nos. 2 and 3, because when lifted, they hide the pupil from their view, who frequently takes this opportunity of amusing himself and neighbours; for this reason they prefer those represented by No. 4.

The next wood cut represents the moveable seat of chair



No. 4. It is fixed on a pivot of wrought iron, three quarters of an inch in diameter and three inches long, surrounded by a band of leather to prevent creaking; the chair

turns with ease and can be easily removed when required for the purpose of washing the school room.

The fixed inkstand, as shewn in figure No. 3, should also be added to all school desks. There is nothing so troublesome, or from carelessness so frequently a cause of quarrel, as the kind of inkstand generally brought to the schools by