

Agricultural Hall, Toronto.

This building occupies a plot of ground on the North side of Queen Street, at the corner of Yonge Street, and as it is situated in one of the principal thoroughfares of the city, public curiosity may be gratified by a sketch of the design. We have been favoured with a sight of the plans and elevations, and the following description (drawn up on the supposition that the building were completed, which it will shortly be) will be found pretty accurate:—

The front to Yonge Street is 41 feet in length, and the facade to Queen Street is 82 feet. It contains on the ground floor—at the angle of the two streets—a substantial and excellent warehouse, for the sale of seeds, plants, &c., with a smaller store entering from Yonge Street, which will be rented to a suitable party. The entrance to the Offices and museum is in the centre of the Queen Street front, whence a large and roomy staircase leads to the first floor, on which is the Board room, lighted by two large windows on the Yonge Street front, Secretary's room, and Porter's room, also a large and commodious store room, connected with the seed room on the ground floor. The entire of the upper floor is in one large apartment, the interior dimensions of which are 79 feet in length, 38 feet in width. The side walls are 19 feet height from the floor to the top of cornice. The roof is in one span, the framed trusses being wrought, having curved wall-braces springing from moulded and carved stone corbels. The lining rises from the side walls at an angle of about twenty-seven degrees, being in the centre 12 feet from the floor to the ceiling. It is divided by moulded ribs into panels, with plaster ceilings and enriched centre pieces, which are perforated for ventilation. This spacious apartment is intended as a museum, for agricultural implements, patented inventions, and other articles connected with agriculture, and open to the public, free of charge. This it is considered will be a great boon to farmers and others, interested in the progress of agriculture, where the utility and economy of the several implements exhibited may be studied.

The building is constructed in the Italian style of architecture. The principal fronts are built with the best red pressed bricks, and the

ornamental masonry and other dressings are of Ohio stone. The entrance door,—which, as already remarked, is in the centre of the Queen Street front—has rusticated and moulded stone jambs, semi-circular head, with radiating rustics. On either side of the door-way are two windows with semi-circular stone heads. Over the ground floor windows there is a bold belting course, which will be enriched by parti-coloured mosaics, a system of decoration which we believe has never been attempted in this country, although in English and other European cities, it is much used for external and internal decorations. The windows of the first floor rest on moulded sills, with small cast-iron balconies in front of them, the windows having stone jambs and massive cornices. Over these are moulded consoles, supporting the balconies, in front of the upper row of windows, which are finished with handsome stone facings; the whole being surmounted by a bold and enriched cornice, producing an excellent effect. While the general symmetry is well preserved, the disposition of the windows, and the great proportion of solid wall, contribute to give the building a massive character. In this respect alone the design exhibits some novelty and piquancy, particularly in the centre compartment, where the five openings are brought pretty closely together, leaving a large pier on either side of the adjoining opening. Thus the front may be said to be divided into three main compartments, the centre being greater than the other two, which assume the appearance of wings; producing a good architectural contrast, combining solidity and strength—yet without either blankness or heaviness. The plans of the building have been furnished by Mr. Joseph Sheard, architect, under whose superintendence the works are being carried out. The contractors are, for the brick-laying and masonry, Mr. John Platt; and for the joiner and carpenter work, Mr. John Harmer. The painting will be executed by Mr. Alexander Hamilton. The whole expense of the building will not exceed the original estimate of \$12,400.

The principal object of the Board in erecting this capacious and commodious building is to secure a permanent office for the transaction of its increasing business; much inconvenience having been hitherto experienced from inadequate accommodation, and frequent removals.—