

describing a woman: "That mysterious gift known as charm, which is incomparably more valuable than all classic beauty or perfection of coloring. Beauty fades, wit wears out, but charm is not evanescent." The volumes, there are two of them, are most daintily bound in what is called "polished buckram," but looks like corn-colored linen, and the illustrations, by Brennan, are very good. Price of books in case, \$2. McMillan & Co., publishers. Toronto News Co., sole agents for Canada.

#### NEW BUILDING OF LA BANQUE DU PEUPLE.

The new building which is now under construction in Montreal, to be used, in part, as a banking office by La Banque du Peuple, will doubtless prove one of the architectural ornaments of the business quarter. It is situated on St. James street, running back all the way to Fortification Lane. The front shows a six story building, the main portion slightly recessed, differing but slightly from the wings. In the centre of the facade is a stately doorway which extends to the height of two stories. Beneath the middle of the arch of this doorway will appear a striking allegorical group representing Progress, under the form of a female who spreads around her the contents of a cornucopia. Hastening towards her to render homage are the following figures: Agriculture, Commerce, Industry and the Arts. On one side the two former with their appropriate classic attributes. On the other, Mechanics, Industry and the Sciences and Arts, with their appropriate surroundings. The execution of these sculptured figures has been confided to Canadian artists, from whom results are hoped which, if not equal to those of European artists, will at least compare well with those of this continent. At various stages in the front of the building run carved friezes representing different subjects, making the whole front very ornate.

The handsome front entrance gives access to a large vestibule, the walls of which will be panelled in sandstone and Portuguese and Italian marbles. The ceiling of the vestibule is to be vaulted and richly decorated, and rich mosaics will form the pavement. The bank offices are to occupy all one side of the ground floor, and the space for the public, which will be floored with mosaic, will be the largest, we are told, of any banking house in the city. The counters, of cherry wood, will have panels of Mexican onyx or Numidian marble. Above the counters, in colored marble, rise teller's boxes, framed of antique copper of a dark shade enclosing plate glass. Artificial lighting will be furnished by electric lustres in novel designs, duplicated in bronze.

The entrance to the offices which are to be rented, will be decorated just as richly as those of the bank itself. Glass partitions separating them will give one the illusion of a grand hall,

and will permit the adjustment of a special system of signs for the use of the occupants. Two electric elevators, rich with decoration and comfortably furnished, will ply to the upper flats of the building, where long corridors conduct to the offices of the various tenants. The lighting of these is rendered more uniform through the provision by the architects of a space or "well" in the middle of the structure, which affords light to a double series of offices on the various floors. Its walls are intended to be finished in ivory white or enamel, and the galleries floored with glass, so that the interior offices which it illuminates will be just as bright as those lighted from either St. James street or the lane.

It is understood that the bank will furnish its tenants with electric light, steam heating at low pressure, and in part with furniture. It is important to mention that the fire-proof character of the building has been carefully borne in mind in its construction. For this reason the use of wood in the building has been reduced to a minimum, stone, steel, glass and metal being the large items in construction.

These handsome and complete premises, a view of which appears on page 1236, are rapidly approaching completion. The architects, Messrs. Perrault, Menard and Venne, expect to occupy their own new offices by mid-April, and the whole structure is to be ready for occupation by the first of May. It is an ornament to St. James street and a credit to the bank.

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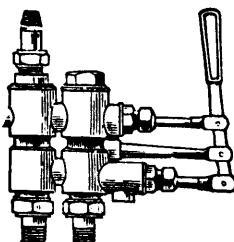
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