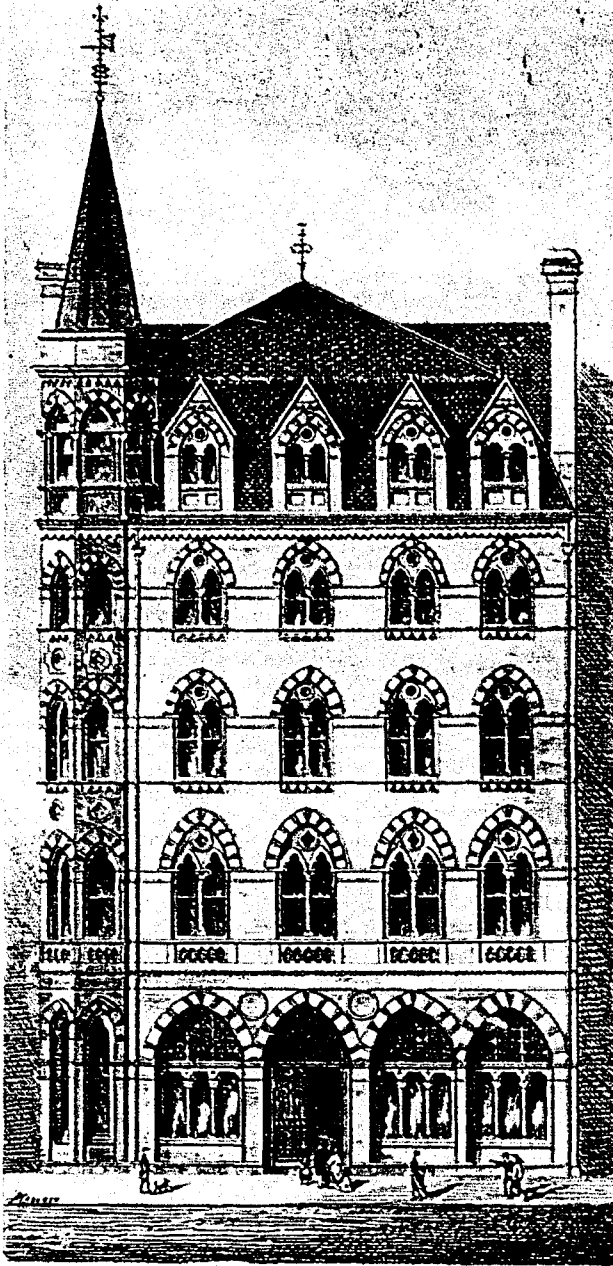


THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT OF- FICES, WESTMINSTER.

At the time when the baths and washhouses in Orange-street were completed, *Punch* enraptured by the simplicity and beauty of their architecture, exclaimed, "Away with the screen!" and called loudly for the demolition of the National Gallery, that the wayfarers through Trafalgar-square might obtain a view of the façade he himself so much admired. That cry we most cordially re-echo in respect to the remaining portion of the west side of Parliament-street, which for the present completely shuts out from view the London offices of the Dominion Government, which are situated in King-street, Westminster, within a few yards of the Broad Sanctuary. Unfortunately, the thoroughfare is at the present moment so narrow that the eye cannot take in the whole of the elevation at one glance and as one picture, but must pass from one feature to another, examining each with minute attention. Hence it is we ask to have the screen removed, that we may have a full and comprehensive view of the building from Palace-yard and Bridge-street, Westminster, and experience that particular joy which the contemplation of "a thing of beauty" always inspires. When a building is so observed small blemishes are lost sight of in the general contour, whereas, when the eye has to be brought close to it every inequality and roughness becomes conspicuous. The finest building ever erected by human hands could not pass uncensured through a scrutiny of that kind, and therefore it is not to be wondered at that this building should be found upon close inspection liable to two or three objections; but these are blemishes which distance will mellow down so as to render the *total ensemble* at once beautiful, effective, and pleasing. The screen of condemned houses between Charles-street and the Broad Sanctuary, which at present shuts the building out from public view, must soon, in the abatement of an æsthetical nuisance, be removed, and then this building of the Dominion Government will form one of the most pleasing objects to be seen between Charing-cross and Westminster Abbey. It is built in the Gothic-Venetian style of architecture, the material used being dark red brick relieved with black in the coigns and arches. The windows, which are of the perpendicular, or early English style, are divided into compartments by handsome iron mullions, and are faced by a balustrade of Caen stone, which is in its character purely Italian; and in order to make this characteristic more striking, the southern

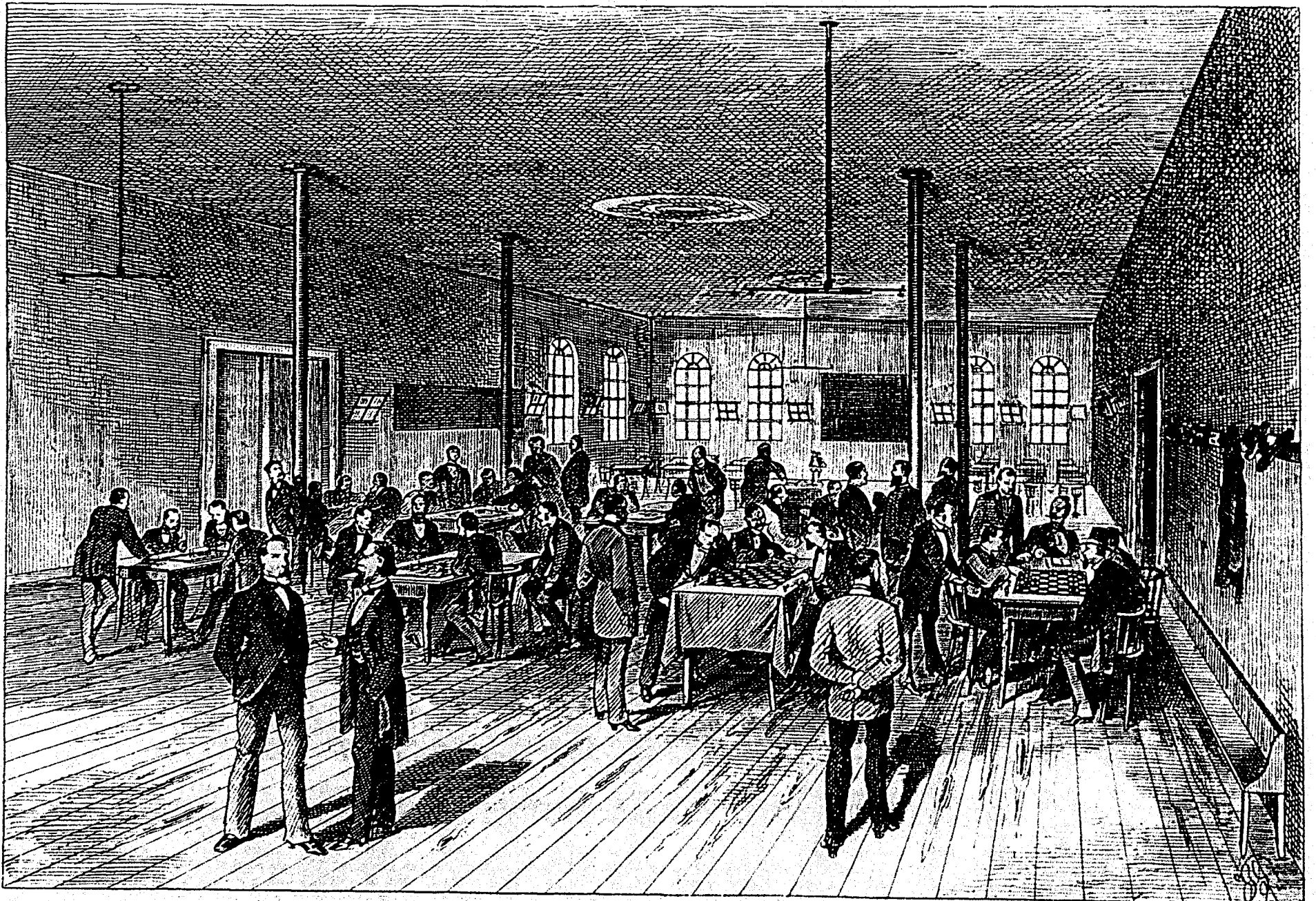


THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT BUILDING, LONDON, ENGLAND.

extremity of the façade is bevelled off and rounded into a bell-tower, which is crowned with a graceful campanile. An iron gate of elegant design opens into a spacious hall, on either side of which are the offices in which the business of the Canadian Agency will be for the future transacted. The doors and the surbases are all of stained pine, and harmonise with the architecture of the building. The walls are painted in slate-colour distemper throughout, with the exception of a broad belt of pink or pale salmon colour, which runs above the surbases, and is separated from the upper part of the wall by a broad ribbon embroidered with the rose and the portcullis, the latter being an heraldic device intimately connected with the locality of Westminster. The staircase is wide and well lighted, and terminates in spacious lobbies leading to the different rooms and offices. Here all the agency business of the Dominion Government will be transacted. Here intending emigrants may be congregated, and receive all the instruction which they require to enable them to pass to the country of their adoption. Here, too, such colonists as may be in London will assemble, and in a reading-room provided for their use, cherish and keep up the associations of their Canadian home, so that it will be to them something like what Grindley's used to be to the officers, civil and military, of the old East India Company. The architect of this very handsome structure is Mr. Norton, of Bond-street, and the builder, Mr. Garrod, of Spitalfields, and both are to be congratulated upon the result of their combined labours—the one on the good taste and skill which pervade the design, and the other upon the sound substantial manner in which that design has been carried out.—*Canadian News*.

A CASE OF FLORAL "OFFERINGS."

The *Gartenlaube* publishes an amusing article on the theatrical *claque* in Berlin, in which the following is related about Mlle. Vestvali, the female *Hamlet*: "She wanted to have bouquets and wreaths thrown to her. I demanded twenty dollars for it, which she said was too much for one night. 'Madame,' I said, 'the twenty dollars are sufficient for two nights. To-day I and my men will throw the bouquets to you from the first tier. After the performance is over I shall take the flowers home in a basket, put them in water all night and next day. To-morrow night no one in the audience will find out that the bouquets have been used before.' Thereupon she paid me the sum I had demanded."



THE CHESS TOURNAMENT AT MONTREAL