

General Science and Miscellany.



RURAL ARCHITECTURE.

The above represents a beautiful residence recently erected in the neighbourhood of Rochester, N. Y. A taste for architectural beauty in the construction of private, even more than in that of public buildings, is evidently gaining ground among our American neighbours. In some of the cities and villages of the state of New York, the traveller will meet with many private dwellings that display an admirable taste in the owner, as well as the architect. We do not mean to say that occasional instances are not to be found in the outskirts of our own towns and villages of a most correct style in the building and an excellent taste in the arrangement of the externals; but to our mind, there is generally a stiffness, and an unsociable air about our genteel country residences. We should like to see this got rid of as fast as possible.

The above design is not inserted as a suitable pattern, after which we would recommend our farmers to copy. There is much costly and useless ornament. At the same time valuable hints may be taken from it. When a farmer is about to erect a dwelling to replace the old log house, he may just as well select the best site with reference to surrounding objects, and adopt a neat plan, as the contrary. And if he feel himself able to spend a few dollars to adorn and beautify his "castle," and his children's "home"—to make it agreeable to the eyes and attractive to the hearts of those who shall grow up within its walls; that when pursuing in after years, far away perhaps from its hallowed precincts, the dazzling objects

of this world's ambition, they may occasionally turn with real satisfaction to the reminiscences of a pleasant home and a happy boyhood, we are the last to say, nay.

The following extract from an agricultural address is to our purpose:

FARMERS' DWELLINGS.—We need a great improvement in this respect—we need a distinctive *Rural style of building*—comfort and convenience combined with neat and simple elegance. Nothing expensive, gaudy or obtrusive, but graceful in form, chaste in ornament, with quiet, neutral colors sweetly blending with the surrounding green, all breathing an air of peaceful, calm repose on which the eye may rest with pleasure. I would gladly enlarge upon this, did time permit. The house should not only be sheltered but adorned with trees—none more beautiful than those of our own forests.

A few choice fruit trees of various kinds, with grapes and smaller fruits which need but little care, with flowering shrubs and ornamental climbers should be there. None of the adornments of beauty are more graceful or attractive than fragrant and blooming vines around the rustic porch. And—let there be a *gardez* too, it need not be a large one—not the unsightly patch of neglected earth sometimes so miscalled, intended for potatoes and cabbages, and filled with burdock and nettles, but a neatly arranged plat for shrubs and flowers, laid out with taste and kept with care—cultivate a taste for flowers, and teach your children to love them. In doing so, you give them new sources of pleasure—new facilities for enjoyment. And do not deem the time they bestow upon them, lost time; it is well bestowed, and will yield a rich return in pure and simple joy, and the cheerful love of home.—*Address of T. D. BURRILL, before the Ontario Agricultural Society.*

NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.

We have made arrangements to procure a number of cuts to explain the various facts and principles of natural philosophy, with which every young man, whether he intend to be a farmer, a mechanic, or to enter one of the so-called "professions," ought to be familiarly acquainted. We shall devote a portion of the space intended for scientific and miscellaneous subjects to this useful and in-

teresting branch of study. During the year we hope to be able to publish a complete epitome of the principles of those sciences usually embraced under the head of Natural Philosophy. Those who subscribe for the *Agriculturist* for 1850, will thus, in addition to the agricultural and other matter, obtain the substance of a scientific work, which of itself would cost 2s. 6d. or 5s. The younger