

Sea, the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf and the Dead Sea, four great empires succeed one to the other. There was the Chaldean, B. C. 2,300 to B. C. 1,600, swallowed up by the Egyptians; then the rise of the Assyrian empire, about B. C. 1,320, side by side with Egypt and the land of the Hittites, until its subjugation by the Egyptians in B. C. 625. Twenty years later the empire of the Babylonians sprang into existence, to be in its turn subdued by the all-conquering Persians, who, subduing the Babylonians and Egyptians, extended their empire from the centre of India in the east to the shores of Greece in the west.

But besides these great empires, there was the country of Phœnicia on the border of Palestine with the powerful republics of Tyre and Sidon. Of the earlier history of these singular people little was known prior to B. C. 1,046, but discoveries have proved that they were an enterprising people, having colonies in Spain, Italy, Greece, Asia Minor, the islands of the Mediterranean and North Africa, before the year 1,000 B. C. Phœnicia flourished from 1,250 B. C., when Tyre is believed to have been built, to 360 B. C., when the celebrated Elissa or Dido, together with all the aristocracy of the country, emigrated to Carthage, already a colony of Phœnicia, and there founded her celebrated empire. The Phœnicians were the sailors of the ancient world; each nation in turn hired the Phœnician ships and sailors for its maritime expeditions.

The kingdom of David and Solomon must not be forgotten; its position was clearly to be seen on the map. Another important empire was that occupying the western part of Asia Minor—that of the Syrians—from which neighborhood came the early Greeks. Then came the history of the republics of Athens and Sparta, with their colonies in the Mediterranean islands, followed by the career of the youthful conqueror Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia, who extended his kingdom into an empire reaching from Macedonia and Greece on the west to India on the east.

The history in connection with the subject closes with the Romans, who overran all previous countries.

An important fact in this early history was, that everywhere Greek soldiers took part in the wars that were being waged by one ruler against another. As the ships of Phœnicia were hired for transport, so the Greek mercenaries were hired to fight.

Thus by this outline of history it will be seen how intimately connected were all these ancient nations one with another. There was no such thing as isolation; each nation and people was well known to every other; so that it is impossible to reject this and the further confirmatory evidence in the details of architecture in an enquiry as to whence the Greeks got their first notions of art. Of their details, more will be said later.

Another matter to be borne in mind, was that of the materials to be found for building in the countries occupied by the nations mentioned. In Egypt, stone was used, but this country really does not, in this particular, help the investigation, because the stone used was not local but brought chiefly from 500 miles up the country. In the land of the Chaldeans, Assyrians and Babylonians was loamy clay; in Persia was stone, in the land of the Medes, the ancestors of the Persians, was wood.

Material exerted a strong influence on the art. Persian and Lydians, or early Greek architecture, was executed in stone, but in the principle of wooden construction, while the architecture of the Chaldeans, Assyrians and Babylonians was of brick.

The lecturer then proceeded to describe the forms of Greek temples and the details of the orders, and went on to show by means of his crayon sketches of caps from Egypt and Phœnicia, the origin of the Doric, Ionic and Corinthian details.

From temples at Medinet Habon and Bern Hassan in Egypt were obtained the rough forms of the Doric; Phœnicia at Kitron furnished examples of Ionic scrolls as decorative features for capitals, while in Egypt at Philæ, were found caps of decidedly Corinthian outline—all of which were designed and executed long before the Roman occupation of these countries.

The Corinthian order was not, properly speaking, a Greek order; it was the Romans who fully developed it. The lecturer produced a number of beautiful illustrations of the Roman order as exemplified by buildings principally in the north of Africa, Algiers and Tunis, and explained how in the Roman order the column as a structural feature sunk into a decorative adjunct, while the arch came into prominence structurally.

In concluding, the lecturer said he had to thank his audience very much for the attentive manner in which each member had listened to him during the whole three-quarters of an hour he had been speaking.

In the course of the discussion which followed it was stated, that a belief existed that the "Tuscan order"—which the lecturer had included as an early form of Grecian Doric, which was misnamed "Tuscan" just as "Corinthian" was misnamed—had an independent origin, and was not derived from any source, as the lecturer showed the others were. In answer to this he, remarked that though he had not alluded to Tuscan individually, he had shown how Italy (or Etruria) was an early colony of the Phœnicians, and was no more isolated than was Greece or Persia, and he did not believe in any theory of independent origin or spontaneous invention, but held that there was a system of development in the art which overran all these countries, outside of which it was impossible to seek for origins. As a matter of fact, Etruria was peopled from Asia Minor in the twelfth century

B. C., prior to the arrival of the Phœnicians, which adds another proof to the development of the art of architecture.

A very hearty vote of thanks was passed, and in answer to the chairman the lecturer said he would be happy to give his map and sketches to the Club if they would be of use.

"CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER" COMPETITION.

The designs received in the CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER competition for a suburban residence have been forwarded to Ottawa. We hope to publish the judge's report thereupon in our December issue.

PASSING EVENTS.

The "smoking" concerts with which the regular meeting of the Montreal Underwriters' Association were inaugurated recently, strike me as being somewhat incongruous with its objects, which are popularly supposed to be the prevention of "smoking," and the pocketing of premiums.

The new Bank of Hamilton in course of erection at the corner of King and James streets, Hamilton, will cost the architect little for draughtsmanship, as it is simply an abbreviated copy of the Bank of Commerce at Toronto. It may be added that the process of abbreviation has not enhanced the merits of the original design.

Municipal authority was enforced in an unusual and ludicrous manner at the town of Niagara Falls, the other day. The Michigan Central Railroad officials resisted the attempt of the town to lay water mains under the tracks. The mayor, constables and fire brigade turned out and put the enemy to flight by turning on them the hose.

A despatch from Ottawa announces that Mr. Perley, late chief engineer of the Department of Public Works, is sinking to his death. The news brings to me, as to many others, a feeling of sorrow. The keen suffering which the exposure of his one mis-step has brought upon the aged man who for many years gave valuable service to this country, proves beyond question his unwillingness to be classed with the professional hoodlows whose habitual crooked practices have recently been dragged into the light of public condemnation.

The college students of Toronto took a new departure this year from the established custom of doing mischief for mischief's sake on Hallow'e'en, by pulling down the unsightly fence surrounding the Normal School grounds. For several years the citizens and the press had urged the government to replace the eyesore with something of a more pleasing character, but their entreaties went for naught. The students accomplished the desired result in a few minutes. But for the knowledge that the artistic instinct exists but feebly in the management of the provincial art schools, I would be astonished that they would live so contentedly amid such "surroundings." Let us hope that the removal of the mass of ugliness upon which their eyes have so long rested, will result in quickening their artistic perceptions, and secure improvement in the ideals placed before their pupils.

PASSERBY.

PERSONAL.

Mr. W. H. Tait has received appointment to the position of City Engineer of Guelph, Ont.

Mr. A. M. Piggott, contractor, of Hamilton, Ont., is spoken of as a candidate for municipal honors in that city.

Mr. J. B. Reid, architect, of Kingston, who went to Europe recently, presumably only on a visit, is said to have decided not to return to that city. His business in Kingston has been transferred to Mr. Arthur Ellis, who has been in charge during his absence.

Mr. James Balfour, of Hamilton, has submitted a design in the competition for the Carnegie library to be erected at Pittsburgh, Pa. There are six prizes of \$2,000 each offered in addition to the carrying out of the work which will reward the architect whose design shall be awarded first position. Mr. Balfour's pluck in entering such a competition is worthy of commendation.

Mr. C. H. Aston-Bond, who for two years past has discharged in a courteous and efficient manner, the duties of secretary of the Toronto Architectural Sketch Club, has been compelled to resign the office, on account of having removed to Hamilton, where he has entered the office of Mr. James Balfour, architect. Mr. Murray White, who was appointed assistant secretary of the Sketch Club at the recent election of officers, has been chosen as Mr. Bond's successor.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS.

The Committee appointed by the Council of the Province of Quebec Association of Architects at the meeting held in Quebec on the 11th of September, to consider the desirability of arranging for lectures, classes, &c., during the ensuing winter season, held a meeting in the Council room on Thursday, the 5th instant, at which all the members of the Committee were present, when it was resolved to make the following recommendations to the Council: (1.) That monthly meetings of the Association be held to which student associates should be invited, and at which papers on special subjects be read followed by discussions. (2.) That steps should be taken to have a conversation and exhibition of architectural drawings about the month of February or March next. (3.) That classes should be organized for the benefit of students in the following subjects: Design, pen and ink drawing, colouring of designs, construction, modeling, perspective. (4.) That lectures should be delivered to the students bearing upon the subjects prescribed for final examinations. (5.) That opportunity should be furnished students to visit and inspect works of importance from time to time.

PUBLICATIONS.

We have received a copy of illustrated catalogue No. 2, of the Rathbun Co., Deseronto, containing illustrations and particulars of their terra cotta fire-proofing material, and also cuts of various important buildings recently erected wherein the material is in use.

The *Engineering Magazine* is a high-class, beautifully illustrated magazine like the *Century* and *Harper's*, but devoted exclusively to engineering and industrial subjects. All news stands, 25 cents; or by mail, \$3.00 a year. *Engineering Magazine Company*, World Building, New York City.

The *American Etcher*, of New York, is doing an admirable service to Art by the publication every month of a high-class etching from the hands of leading American artists. A list of the plates already published is published by the publishers, George F. Kelley & Co., 31 Union Square, New York, on request. A remarkable feature of this periodical is its extremely moderate price, viz: 35 cents a month, or \$3 a year.