

# JOURNAL OF EDUCATION

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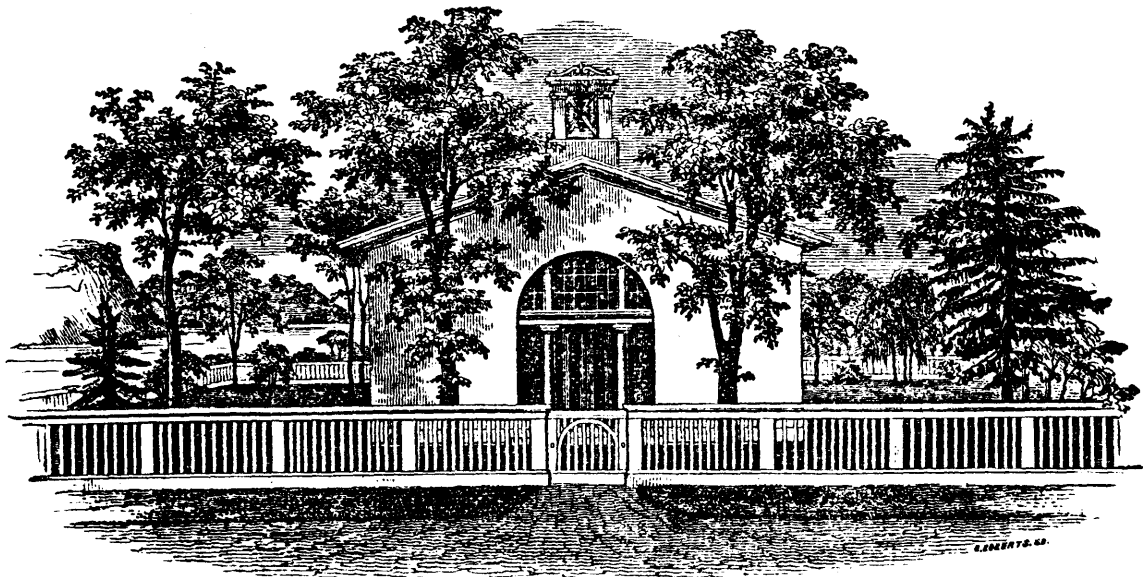
## Upper Canada.

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### School Architecture.



Front Projection of a Schoolhouse, with Trees, Shrubbry, &c.

The foregoing plan of a very neat Primary School-House we have selected from the "*School and School-Master*"—a most valuable work to which we have heretofore referred. The construction is simple, and the *toute ensemble* pleasing in the extreme. The situation is well chosen and the grounds planted with beautiful and appropriate trees and shrubbry. This should ever be attended to in selecting sites for School-Houses; and we earnestly direct the consideration of Trustees and the people generally to the subject:—

"So much do the future health, vigor, taste, and moral principle of the pupil depend upon the position, arrangement, and construction of the school-house, that every thing about it is important. When the most desirable situation can be selected, and the laws of health and the dictates of taste may be consulted, it should be placed on firm ground, on the southern declivity of a gently sloping hill, open to the southwest, from which quarter comes the pleasant winds in summer, and protected on the northeast by the top of the hill or by a thick wood. From the road it should be remote enough to escape the noise, and dust, and danger, and yet near enough to be easily accessible by a path or walk, always dry. About it should be ample space, a part open for a play-ground, a part to be laid out in plots and flowers, and shrubs, with winding alleys for walks. Damp places in the vicinity of stagnant pools or unwholesome marshes, and bleak hill-tops or dusty plains, should be carefully avoided. Tall trees should partially shade the grounds, not in stiff rows or heavy clumps, but scattered irregularly as if by the hand of nature. Our native forests present such a choice of

beautiful trees, that the grounds must be very extensive to afford room for even a single fine specimen of each; yet this should be, if possible, for children ought early to become familiar with the names, and appearance of these noblest of inanimate things. The border of a natural wood may often be chosen for the site of a school; but if it is to be thinned out, or if trees are to be planted, and, from limited space, a selection is to be made, the kingly, magnificent oaks, the stately hickories, the spreading beech for its deep mass of shade, the maples for their rich and abundant foliage, the majestic elm, the useful ash, the soft and graceful birches, and the towering, columnar sycamore, claim precedence. Next may come the picturesque locusts, with their hanging, fragrant flowers, the tulip tree, the hemlock, best of evergreens, the cecilians, or sweet gum, the nyssa, or tupelo, with horizontal branches and polished leaves, the walnut and butternut, the native poplar, and the aspen.

Of extremely beautiful American shrubs, the number is so great that I have no room for a list. What place intended to form the taste of the young, should be without the kalmias, rhododendrons, cornels, roses, liburnums, magnolias, clethras, honeysuckles, and spiræas? And whoever goes into the woods to gather these, will find a multitude of others which he will hardly consent to leave behind. The hilltop should be planted with evergreens, forming, at all seasons, a barrier against the winds from the north and east."

Of the flower plots, little may be said. They may be left to the taste of the teacher, and of the cultivated persons in the section. We can only recommend our wild American plants, and again remind the reader, that there is hardly a country town in Canada, from whose woods and meadows a hundred kind of flowers might not be transplanted, of beauty enough to form the chief ornament