

Rural Architecture.

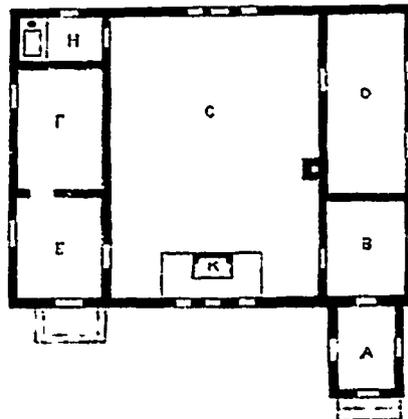


District School-houses

It is a great mistake to suppose that ugliness is necessarily cheap and beauty costly; yet too many public buildings, in rural districts especially, are constructed on this principle, and any approach to an elegant or pleasing style of architecture is scouted on the score of economy. It is highly desirable that school-houses, in particular, should be divested of all that is repulsive, and made as attractive in appearance as possible. This need not entail much, if any, additional expense. The elements of beauty in architecture are simple and easy of application. Just proportion, symmetry relieved by variety, the effect of projections in creating shadows, and a few slight details of ornament, will often produce at trifling cost the most agreeable results; and by attention to these matters a beautiful structure may be presented, in place of a square, ugly, and repulsive-looking prison-house sort of structure, such as we too often see disfiguring the roadside in country places, repelling by its very front, and proclaiming that, whatever else may be taught within, good taste and refinement are altogether ignored.

It has been our object, by giving designs

of a different class of architecture in dwelling houses and other buildings, to aid in promoting a better taste; and it is gratifying to know that many of these designs in the CANADA FARMER have been used as models in the erection of country-houses all over the Province. In the accompanying illustrations we give a plan



and perspective elevation of a very simple and cheap, yet attractive school-house, suitable for a country district. The original design appeared some time back in one of our American exchanges (we think the *Western Rural*), and seemed to us well worthy of being reproduced and

presented to our Canadian readers as a model of simple yet picturesque architectural beauty. No small share of the attractive appearance is due to the surroundings, which should always be carefully regarded. Trees we can always have in this country, and by retaining a few of these natural ornaments about a place, and planting others, as well as shrubs and flowers, the beauty of a garden and a home-like aspect are added to the pleasing effect of the building. We know school-houses thus adorned; and it is surprising how readily children will learn to do their part in keeping such a place in order, not only by abstaining from trampling on flower beds or injuring trees, but by taking an active share of garden work in their intervals of recreation.

The drawing is sufficiently clear to need very little in the way of explanation. The internal arrangements might be modified to suit the requirements of the case. In the accompanying plan, A is the porch to girls' entrance; B, girls' entrance; D, girls' cloak room or class room; E, boys' entrance; F, cap room; H, washing room; C, school-room, with the master's desk at K.