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NOTES ON BUILDING.

RUBBLE AND ASHLAR MASONRY.

IT not unfrequently happens in the erection of a private or public building, coarse ashlar is used which so nearly approaches to rubble work that, to the unprofessional eye, the difference is imperceptible, and cases of dispute have not unfrequently arisen, between architects and builders, as to under what class of masonry certain work performed should be paid. This doubt becomes particularly embarrassing, when no specification exists, describing precisely how the work is to be performed, which work probably was an after-thought, or change considered desirable in construction, but then the architect had one idea of how the work should be built, and the contractor another. As more than one instance has occurred in this Province where this ambiguous point has caused large claims to be made on the part of a contractor, and involved both parties in litigation, we give on page 149, a few illustrations to show the line of distinction between these two styles of masonry when, by intermediate steps, rubble masonry approaches so close to ashlar, both in appearance and cost, as to render the difference, to many, almost doubtful.

RUBBLE.

In England the word *rubble* was formerly applied to loose or field stones, which were built into walls with mortar or cement, such as we see in ancient buildings in the present day. Work of this description is the primitive rubble; but, as the demand for building stones became greater, quarries were opened, and a superior kind of work made with quarried stones. The walls built with them were properly bonded, so as not to depend upon the quality of the mortar for their strength and durability, and, as the taste for superior work increased, the rough and irregular shaped stones were scabbled or hammer-dressed, laid in regular courses, and, ultimately, brought so near to ashlar work that the question of cost between ashlar and rubble masonry became but of little account.

ASHLAR.

The term ashlar is derived from the Italian word *Asciare*, to chip, and is applied to common or free stones taken from the quarry and wrought or "chipped" for building purposes.

Plane ashlar is generally laid in horizontal courses from 10 to 12 inches in height; small *rock face ashlar* in courses from 5 to 7 inches in height; but when large stones exceeding 12 inches in height are employed for the construction of public works, it is called *block ashlar*. Fig. 8, is an illustration of *plane ashlar* work with chamfered and rusticated quoins and plinths. There are different kinds of ashlar work, but that sort principally used in the construction of private buildings consists of *plane ashlar*, that is when the stones which compose the ashlar facing are wrought quite smooth, and exhibit none of the marks of the tools by which they are cut. *Tooled ashlar* is so-called when the stones are wrought in a regular manner, so that the surface has the appearance of parallel flutes, placed perpendicularly in the building; and *random tooled*, when the surfaces of the stones are cut with a broad tool without care or regularity. It is called *chiselled*, or *boasted* when cut with a narrow tool; and said to be *pointed* when cut with very narrow tools; and when the stones project from the joints, with either smooth or broken surface, it is called *rusticated*.

Although rubble masonry may be laid in irregular or regular courses, ashlar work is generally confined to two methods of construction — *coursed* or *random coursed*. In rubble masonry there can be no specified size given for the thickness of the mortar on the stone bed when laid in irregular courses, but when it is *coursed* or *random coursed*, the stones should be bedded in just sufficient mortar to fill up irregularities and make a fair joint. With ashlar masonry, however, the beds and vertical joints are dressed back a few inches from the face of the wall, and should have close well fitting joints which, in superior work, should not exceed one-eighth of an inch in thickness, and the mortar should be very fine and clear from grit. The face of ashlar stones may be polished, worked in any way, or left