



THE COLONIAL HOUSE, MONTREAL.

## A GREAT CANADIAN HOUSE.

Overlooking Phillips Square, from St. Catherine street, Montreal, is that magnificent structure known as the Colonial House, the proprietors of which are Messrs. Henry Morgan & Co. It has a frontage of 160 feet, a depth of 130 feet and a height of four storeys and a basement, built largely of red English sandstone,—the entire front and sides being faced with this variety. One of the finest buildings in Montreal, it is an establishment which has not its equal in the country. There are two entrances, the principal one at the centre front, and the other on the Union Avenue side.

Passing through the handsome doorway, from St. Catherine street, one is immediately struck with the solidity and beauty of every part, while the ground floor spreads out on every side into numerous departments. Directly on the right are the telegraph offices of the C. P. R. and G. N. W. Co.'s and a telephone for the convenience of customers, while the left side is occupied by the drug department, under the management of Messrs. K. Campbell & Co. Opposite to us, against the rear wall, is the main stair-case, which, dividing into two parts, leads to the storey above, and so on to the fourth floor. Down the centre is the fancy goods department, having a fine display, in the large show-cases, of Christmas presents of all kinds, such as silk goods, lamps, purses, toilet cases, clocks, bric-a-brac, toys, etc., in endless variety. Leaving the telegraph office on our right we pass between two counters,—the fancy dry goods and that for ladies' cuffs, collars, handkerchiefs, laces, ribbons, etc. Continuing our tour we see others for prints, muslins and crêtonnes, for dress goods—a very large department—and for silks and velvets. At the end of this latter counter is a dark room, fitted with electric light, for the purpose of showing the evening shades of silks and dress goods. Next we view the departments for linens and cottons, black goods, and blankets, flannels, quilts, etc. Passing in front of the elevator and stair-case to the western half of this floor, the gents' furnishing department is entered, then the tailoring and ready-made clothing sections. Here is seen a large stock of ready-made clothing for boys and youths, finished in the latest styles and from the best fabrics. The Union Avenue entrance opens directly into this department, of which custom work and ladies' riding habits are the specialties, two experienced cutters being in constant attendance. Above the entrance, and overlooking this floor, is the cash counter, where two lady clerks are kept constantly busy giving change. This is the terminus of the Martin Electric Cash System, which runs

throughout the establishment, consisting of eleven lines,—one to the basement, three to the second and third floors, and seven to the ground floor. Continuing our inspection we pass the hosiery and glove counters, and reach the departments for Butterick's patterns and publications, and stationery and books, gaining our starting point through the haberdashery section.

Now we will take the passenger elevator and descend to the basement. The feature which first draws our attention is the department for kitchen utensils, cutlery, plated-ware, hollow ware, wooden ware, wire goods, agate ware, kitchen novelties, brass and copper kitchen goods, brushes, housefurnishings, etc. The engine and boiler rooms are also interesting; three Babcock & Wilcox 50 h. p. water tube boilers are used for heating and power, while two Lawrie engines drive the three dynamos, which supply electricity to the 5 h. p. motor for the cash system, the motors for the passenger and goods elevators, and for lighting. These dynamos are of the Thomson-Houston system, manufactured by the Royal Electric Co. Altogether there are 80 arc and 260 incandescent lights through the building. In one corner is the parcel room, where all packages are received and sorted into districts for delivery, by the firm's five expresses, through the city. Next is the marking room, where all consignments are opened and goods priced by a member of the firm previous to distribution through the building. The remaining portion of the basement is taken up by the reserve stocks of oil-cloths, carpets, and other heavy goods, hosiery, blankets, Butterick's patterns, stationery, and crockery.

We again take the elevator and thus ascend to the second floor—a paradise to the gentle sex,—for the millinery, dressmaking, ladies' underwear, mantle, fur, boot and shoe and crockery departments are here situated. In each of these the goods are displayed in fine style, and comprise manufactures from the lowest price to the most expensive. The mantle department is very large, and, with the dressmaking and millinery sections, is supplied with cutting and fitting rooms. Attached to the dressmaking department is a dark room for trying on ball dresses. High priced goods are kept in cabinets to preserve them from dust. There is still another part of interest to the ladies, devoted to travelling requisites; while in boots, shoes and slippers for ladies and children, only the finest French and American goods are handled. Gents' fancy slippers, ladies' walking boots and the "Goodyear Glove" brand of rubber goods are some of their lines. Taking up nearly a quarter of this floor, china, crockery and glassware is displayed on stands, and comprises every variety, such as Majolica, Doulton, Terra Cotta, Limoges, Japanese, Bisque wares, also lamp goods and china ornaments of all kinds. A