

HINTS ABOUT BUILDING SCHOOL HOUSES.

We give on the preceding page, a sketch of the interior of a School Room upon the best model which experience has suggested, in order to the introduction of similar improvements in the Province. Having described the wood cut, we shall now refer to some suggestions as to locality, design, embellishment and internal arrangements, condensed from a very useful work for all teachers, entitled, "The School and Schoolmaster."

SITUATION AND GROUNDS.

"So much do the future health, vigour, taste, and moral principles of the pupil depend upon the position, arrangement, and construction of the School House that every thing about it is important." If convenient it should occupy a Southern slope;—it should be some distance from the public road;—the space should be ample for a play-ground with winding walks;—young forest trees such as the Oak, Hickory, Elm, Maple, Birch, Ash, Beech, Locust, Hemlock, Poplar, &c., should be planted around the Lot and others in graceful clumps to form a shade interspersed with shrubs such as Roses, &c.,—Spaces should be laid out and cultivated as flower beds, in the management of which the services of the scholars may very beneficially be employed.

SIZE AND INTERNAL ARRANGEMENTS.

"The School Room should be large enough to allow every pupil 1st. to sit comfortably at his desk; 2nd. to leave his seat without disturbing others; 3rd. to see explanations on his lessons; 4th to breathe a wholesome atmosphere.

1. Each desk should be large enough to contain the books, maps, slate, &c. of its two occupants, and wide enough for their books, &c., when spread out. For this purpose the desk for each should be allowed a space of from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 feet long, and from 13 to 17 inches wide. The seat to afford ease and freedom should be from 10 to $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches in each dimension according to the size of the children.

2. Each seat should be accessible on one side. For this purpose a passage of 2 or $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet should be allowed between the tiers of desks for two pupils each: this will also allow of the whole school standing in order when required.

3. There should be sufficient unoccupied space in front of the desks to allow more than one class to be conveniently arranged while reciting; and to afford room for the Blackboards and other apparatus: when it can be done conveniently the recitations should be conducted in a separate room.

4. The School Room must be well ventilated: for this purpose no school should be less than ten feet high from floor to ceiling. It should be well lighted,—the windows being to the right and left of the pupils, and sufficiently high to prevent their attention being distracted by passing objects: they should also be constructed so as to open at the top, or to slide down entirely in fine weather.

5. The end of the room occupied by the Master should have a platform elevated 10 or 12 inches above the floor on which his Desk, Stool, and Table should be placed. The rear of this should be occupied with shelves for the School Library, Maps, and other apparatus; and with no additional expense may be made to resemble 3 or 4 black pannels with projecting pilasters. The pannels will also answer as black boards when required.

ORDER AND CLEANLINESS.

6. A hall or lobby should be constructed with conveniencies for the Caps and Cloaks of the children; and a separate apartment should be allotted for firewood, so as to keep the Hall and School Room free from disorder and dust.