

Rural Architecture.

A COMFORTABLE FARM HOUSE.

The design presented on this page is of a good farm house, recommended by Mr. A. J. Downing. It is a substantial and commodious building, planned with careful regard to the purposes for which it is intended. Unquestionably the best material for a farm-house is stone or concrete; and this plan, it will be seen, is for a stone building. Locality and other circumstances, however, often leave no choice in the selection of material—and brick or wood may be the only available resource. The design before us can easily be adapted to either of these materials. The architect claims for it the great merit of "looking like a farm-house," expressing "the beauty of a farmer's life—simple, honest, strong and frank—telling its own story at a glance. While unambitious, it is neither mean nor meagre."

The main building, of stone, is 30 by 46 feet, and two stories in height. The L. part is but one story.

In the ground plan, A is the front Piazza; B, the Parlor or Living-room, 18 by 20 feet; D, Hall, C, C, Bedrooms, 13 by 18 each; E, Pantry, between the parlor and kitchen (F, 16 by 16). The passage and two doors between the parlor and kitchen shut all kitchen noises from the living-room. G is a Wash-room, 16 by 16, which may be used as a Summer-kitchen. H is the Dairy, and I the Wood-house. The Kitchen, F, 16 feet square, opens by a back door upon a broad stone platform, under which the steps next the main building descend to the cellar. The Wash-room, G, has, beside the fire-place a circular copper boiler set for boiling the clothes. The Dairy, H, may, if thought best, be sunk three feet below the level of the wash-house, and paved with flag-stones in order to keep it cool; a stone shelf being around the outside for milk pans. The wood-house has a large door to facilitate unloading from wagons.

The second floor has four Bedrooms, J, J, each 13 by 18; K, 17 by 20, and L, 8 by 12 feet. There is also ample room for closets. Above this story is a roomy garret.

On any of our readers who may think of erecting a permanent house such as this, we strongly urge that before entering on the work, they should earnestly consider which is the very best site to be found on the farm—with special regard to soil, water, drainage, and protection from the blasts of winter.

Building Cellars.

There is no greater convenience, and I may say luxury, for any family, than a good cellar. But the way to build a dry, sweet, airy cellar, especially on clay land, is not so well understood. To begin a good cellar, avoid the first error, do not build too small, but build under the whole house. Many of the best qualities of a good cellar depend upon its being large,

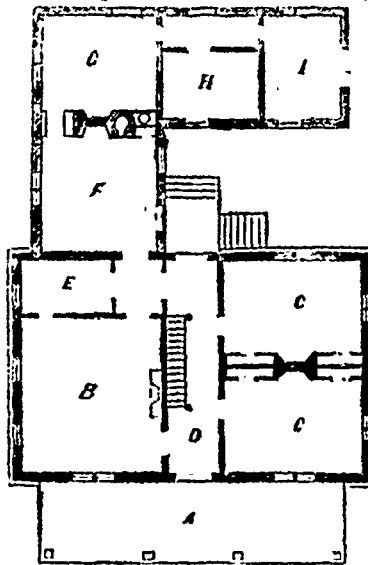
stones under the wall does not make a desirable drain, for it will fill up with sediment, washed down outside of the wall in a few years at most, and the water flows broad-cast over the cellar. Where tiles can be had, there is a better way. Build the wall on the bottom of the cellar, and when completed dig a trench along the face of the wall five inches deep, and in the bottom lay a three inch tile for the drain, with the proper descent from the highest to the lowest point. To fill the other two inches of the trench, lay a tier of bricks across it, with one end fitted to the wall and

resting on the tile, and the other packed into the cellar bottom, so that the upper surface of the bricks makes a part of the smooth bottom. Use mortar in laying these bricks, and put nothing between the tile and the wall to obstruct the water, and the drainage will be perfect, with a good outlet. This manner of laying bricks crossways at the tile, in my cel-



A COMFORTABLE FARM HOUSE—ELEVATION.

and it costs but a trifle, if any more. For a square house it takes the same amount of wall for a cellar under the whole, as for one under one-half, and a half wall for a foundation under the other. Then, avoid the next and greater error, do not dig too deep.



PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR.

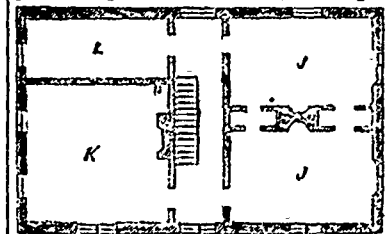
Dig two feet six inches, bank up two feet, and above, face up for the windows one foot eight inches, and the house will have a good elevation, and the cellar will be 6 feet two inches in the clear.

Experience proves that a trench filled with small

lar, has for years proved a perfect protection against rats. I doubt if rats ever dig from the outside down into the cellar first, but get in and dig out. They have had access to my cellar during the summer seasons, but appear to stay no longer than to go around and examine the joint between the bricks and the wall, but finding no place to go out, they leave as silently as they came.

The next point is good ventilation, by plenty of windows, so arranged that the wind during the summer can blow through and displace the damp air from every corner, and replace it with pure sunshine every day. If the cellar is large, and not too deep below the surface of the ground, and well drained and ventilated, a better one for family use can hardly be expected.

In a sanitary point of view, a good cellar is of the greatest importance. No family can long be healthy



PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR.

in a house over a damp, mouldy cellar, nor can a house without a cellar be healthy where the foundation walls confine the damp air beneath the floor until it becomes almost pestilential, and finds its way up through the crevices, to be breathed in every apartment in the house. Air purified by sunshine is the great source of health in nature, and if we took more pains to introduce it into our cellars and houses there would be less necessity for going abroad for pure air, or renewed health, even in our cities.—*Farm Journal*.