

—Just published, a few copies of the first volume of the *NEW DOMINION MONTHLY*, (from October, 1867, to March, 1868, inclusive,) bound in muslin, pp. 384, with maps and pictorial illustrations. Sent post-free for One Dollar.

(*For the New Dominion Monthly*)

### HOUSE BUILDING.

House building is a subject which comes home to every man's "business and bosom," inasmuch as every man has either built, or intends at some time in the indefinite future, to build a house for himself and family. And the ambition so to do is most laudable. In no other way can the people be rendered so stable, law-abiding, patriotic and contented, as by each family, so far as possible, dwelling in its own house. The best of all saving's banks for a father to put his money in, is a snug dwelling; and this, also, is by far the best life-assurance policy he can leave to his family. It is necessary that the relation of landlord and tenant should exist, for many men have acquired wealth, which they like to invest in dwelling-houses; and many others never can, or, at all events, never do have any means ahead of their actual wants; but it is an abnormal relation, as is manifested by the frequent jars and controversies whilst it lasts, and a very general desire to change it. Hence the constant moving about on May-day, in the, generally, vain hope of doing better. Many must dwell in hired houses, as many must board out, but the true result to aim at, both on the part of individuals and society, is for each family to dwell in its own house. And if it has a little garden attached, so much the better.

In Britain, an artizan or mechanic, when he made good wages, generally speaking, if well-doing, endeavored to acquire a lot and build a house, which, however humble, was his own; and which he could regard with complacency as a shelter for his wife and children, even if he were called away from them. In the yards, or gardens, attached to

these houses were raised the peas, cabbages, turnips, &c., which materially contributed to the table of the family; and it was a pleasant sight, on a fine spring afternoon, to see all the owners of houses, in a suburban row, out working in their gardens, with their boys and girls helping them. It was in such humble gardens, also, that the auriculas and polyanthus, and tulips, and carnations and gooseberries were raised—by men who gave their mind to one thing—which took the first prizes at flower and fruit shows. Others turned their attention to birds, or animals; and many of them attained such excellence in their respective pursuits, that sales formed a respectable little item of income. These proprietors, delighted to add from time to time to their properties everything that was convenient, and beautiful, and profitable, so far as they could; and this very pursuit contributed to their health and happiness, and that of their families. There was another great advantage to the artizan, in securing a cottage of his own. So long as it was to pay for by instalments, he had no time or money to waste in sloth, drinking, or folly. He had a high and holy purpose before him—the providing a domicile for his family—which overbore all petty temptations to idleness or wasteful expenditure; and, by the time his house was paid for, habits of prudence and sobriety were formed. And there was always this addition or that improvement to be made, which required still further diligence and economy.

But it was about house-building that I intended to write, and not the general principle that every family should have its own house; and my object is to call the attention of parties intending to build, to a few principles, the neglect or violation of which, in building, will work them mickle woe in all their after experience.

The first of these is, that a house should be secured against wet and damp. Every one knows that the roof of a house should be water-tight; and if even a nail-hole lets in a few drops, the landlord must be warned