

THE NEW MASSACHUSETTS STATE LIBRARY BUILDING, AT BOSTON, MASS.

We present in this issue, on pages 32 and 33, engravings illustrating the new extension to the Massachusetts State Capitol at Boston, Mass. The corner stone of the old Capitol building, a view of which can be seen at the left of the picture, was laid on July 4, 1795. This building, usually spoken of as the "Bulfinch Building," derives its name from the fact that Bulfinch, the first and one of the greatest American architects, designed it, and it has always been considered his masterpiece. The facilities of this building having been inadequate for many years, it was decided that the sadly needed room for the various departments of the State government be enlarged, and in 1889 the construction of the extension was authorized, and land was taken for the purpose in the rear of the Capitol, on the north slope of Beacon Hill. The corner stone of this building was laid with appropriate exercises by Gov. Ames, on December 21, 1890. The design was intended to harmonize with the Bulfinch front, and this idea is carried out in detail; but when you take into consideration that the new structure is more than twice the size of the Bulfinch building, you will readily see that it greatly dwarfs the latter, and that the effect sought has not been materialized. When the commissioners in charge of the construction in 1894 realized this defect, they very rapidly urged the demolition of the old Capitol building, and to construct an entirely new one. This proposition naturally raised an indignant and universal protest throughout the commonwealth, and when an attempt was made to pass a bill through the Legislature to demolish this old Capitol building, rich in its style of architecture, with its colonnaded front and gold crested dome, standing as it does with historical interest upon a site overlooking the famous Boston Commons, and making a picture which is dear to the heart of every true Bostonian, it was rejected by the Legislature, and the patriotic sentiment of the commonwealth won a victory over that of vandalism, hence the preservation of the old State House. There is a strong feeling that the reconstruction of the old part, made necessary by new conditions, should proceed with the most thoughtful regard for the spirit of Bulfinch historic design, while making such changes as are essential to protect it against any ill treatment or injurious effects. The new extension which we present, and more particularly use as an illustration, is constructed of yellow brick, with white marble trimmings, simulating the familiar yellow and white of the colonial style. The underpinning is built of rock-faced stone, the first story of dressed stone, and the remainder of the structure of brick, while the whole is surmounted with a massive frieze and balustrade. The only necessary requisite in a building of this character is the necessary apartments and their respective dependencies, and in the present case the actual and most essential requirements have been secured, and while the architecture is of a classic order, it is of the simplest expression, and how very effective an expression it is, when you take in consideration that the building was designed in keeping with the old building, and the general scheme of style and color is carried out with consistency to the last detail. The absolute plainness of the basement, except the outlying porches, the treatment of which is still severe, gives value to the arcades above, which is still further enhanced by the absolute plainness of its inclosing wall. The highest merit of the detail is that all of it tends to promote a high expression, and is far more valuable in its place, owing to its proper adjustment, which has been studied with complete success with reference to its situation and material. The outcome of the study that has been devoted to this work in composition, modeling and ornament, can safely be called a classic piece of architecture with Romanesque feeling. The interior of the extension is pleasant, cheerful, well ventilated, and convenient. It contains the various administrative and executive departments of the commonwealth, and includes two handsome halls, that of the House of Representatives and the State Library, besides various committee rooms. The Senate remains in its chamber in the old building. The new Hall of Representatives is a handsome and richly decorated room, considerably larger than the old hall. The amphitheatre shape, with its domed ceiling, lends itself well to fine decorative effects. The treatment is in the Italian Renaissance. Some of the prominent features of the scheme are the names of fifty-three men, prominent in Massachusetts history, inscribed in the frieze, beginning with John Carver and ending with Phillips Brooks. The names of the counties in the stained glass skylight, and the symbols of statecraft, law, commerce, science, industry and art that occupy panels in the coning and elsewhere, are also good features. Five large panels on the wall are intended to be occupied by decorative pictures representing events of Massachusetts history. The next department of importance is the State Library room, of which we give illustrations. Owing to the modern architectural effort being toward permanency, a demand has necessarily risen for fireproof interior fixtures, and if perfect security is to be obtained, not only must an apartment be fireproof, but also all its fixtures and its furniture, its connecting doors, interior trim and protecting shutter. Up to a comparatively recent period, these could not be secured of non-inflammable material,

except at a large cost and in an unattractive form. The question in regard to the safe custody of the Public Records has become a grave necessity, and while considerations looking toward their longevity are justly recognized as of such importance as in some cases to be prescribed by statute, the prime factor for their safety still remaining for absolutely safe quarters for their custody and protection. The commission of experts having had these ideas in consideration, they adopted a basis upon which such a means could be materialized, and it does so conform in every respect. As an example of perfection in metallic building for interiors, we present a few specimen illustrations of the interior of the new State Library, the first of which is an interior view of the reading-room, delivery counter, desks and stack work, of which a glimpse is shown through the opening at end of room, this metallic work being of the highest order. A more detailed view is given of the alcove cases, which are built up of steel plates, ornamented with solid bronze ornaments and mouldings, fitted with marble base, and the Fenton system of adjustable library shelving. The third view is taken from the gallery in the stack-room, and presents what the Fenton Company claim as one of their most important products, a perfect system of metallic library stack work, embodying all the points of lightness, ventilation, strength and utility, which were called for in the specification of twenty-one requirements as the essentials in a perfect system of library stacks. This metallic work must come with peculiar interest to architects and the building trades who have in consideration works of this character. The metallic work in this building has cost \$125,000, and it was designed and built by the Fenton Metallic Manufacturing Company, with general offices and works at Jamestown, N. Y., and a New York office at 621 Broadway. The Capitol has one of the finest heating and ventilating plants in the world, constructed according to plans under Prof. S. H. Woodbridge, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Another feature of particular interest is the lighting with electricity, furnished by a large isolated plant. The library stack-room is splendidly lighted by a system that is certainly unique. Each tier is lighted by turning a switch. In the usual system of lighting library stack-rooms, the turning on of the current lights the lamps overhead, but in this State Library the wiring is done so that when the current is switched on the lamps underneath the glass floor are also lighted as well as those above, thus the light shines up through the glass floor, rendering access to volumes on the lower range as easy as those in the middle. Those who have had occasion to use libraries which have been poorly lighted would appreciate this convenience. The buildings will have properly laid out parks surrounding same when completed, and which will add much value to picture presented.

Our engravings were made direct from photographs of the building, taken specially for the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

RESIDENCE AT INTERLAKEN, N. J.

We illustrate, on pages 19 and 22, the residence of Charles H. Thomas, Esq., at Interlaken, N. J. The design is very successfully treated in the colonial style, and is appropriate to its surroundings, having a broad, well shaded veranda, with Tuscan columns grouped on shingled piers, supporting the roof above, which at entrance is formed into a pediment; the circular end, with its shingled rail, makes a pretty effect. The house is gable roofed, overhang projecting to face of bays beneath, and supported by brackets of simple detail. The rounded bays, forming circular dormers above, with balcony between, are a pleasing feature of the design, and relieve the roof lines. Sash are effectively divided by wooden muntons. Chimney of mottled brick, capped with stone, has small dormer window breaking through centre. Dimensions: Front, 48 ft. 6 in.; side, 49 ft., exclusive of veranda projections. Heights: Cellar, 7 ft.; first story, 10 ft. 3 in.; second story, 9 ft. 9 in.; attic, 8 ft. 3 in. Underpinning of brick; all exterior frame work above sheathed, papered, shingled with Virginia cedar shingles and left to weather. First floor plan shows a broad reception hall with wide bay, having mullioned window and seat its full width; large fireplace of brick, with mantel above, paneled wainscoting, and three fluted Ionic columns supporting flat arches above; slender spindle balusters run to ceiling, which shows beams exposed; wide stairs of easy rise have landing in bay, turned balusters and square paneled newel post; finish, yellow pine; 7 foot sliding doors lead to dining-room, trimmed in oak, having bay its full width, and fireplace with mantel above. This room connects with kitchen, complete with usual fixtures, through butler's pantry, having sink, dresser, etc. Reception room, or parlor, is finished in painted pine, hardwood floors. Second floor is divided into three chambers (principal one having private bath, which, as well as the other, is provided with best plumbing and fixtures), two servants' rooms and nursery; attic unfinished. Cellar, cemented, contains hot air heater, fuel and storage rooms; finished, except where noted, with yellow pine. Cost, complete, \$8,500. Messrs. Romeyn & Stever, architects, No. 48 Exchange Place, New York City.

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A PORTLAND RESIDENCE.

We present herewith, on page 31, a residence recently erected for Harry Butler, Esq., at Portland, Me. The building is designed for a town house, and the main walls are constructed of brick, with red sandstone trimmings. The roof is covered with shingles and stained a moss green. Dimensions: Front, 68 ft. 9 in.; side, 35 ft., not including piazza. Height of ceilings: Cellar, 7 ft. 6 in.; first story, 10 ft.; second, 9 ft.; third, 8 ft. 6 in. Vestibule is trimmed and paneled with oak; the floor is laid with tiles. Hall is trimmed with oak. It has a paneled wainscoting and ceiling beams. The staircase is a handsome one, with broad landings, carved newel posts, seat and a cluster of stained glass windows, lighting with good effect. The floor is laid with oak. Reception room is treated with ivory white and gold in a most excellent manner, and is provided with a corner and window seat. Living-room, trimmed with cherry, is provided with an oak floor, a nook with archway and spindle transom, and an open fireplace, with tiled hearth and facings, and a massive carved mantel with columns and mirror. Dining-room is trimmed with whitewood and finished natural, and has a birch floor, window seat and a corner fireplace. Kitchen, pantries, and rear hall are trimmed and wainscoted with whitewood, and each apartment is furnished with the usual fixtures. The second floor, and also third floor, are trimmed with natural whitewood. The former contains three bedrooms, dressing, sewing, trunk and bath rooms, while the latter contains three bedrooms and ample storage. The bathroom is wainscoted and furnished complete with exposed plumbing. The bedroom, over dining-room, has a pleasant nook with paneled divan, and fireplace fitted up complete. Cemented cellar contains furnace, laundry and other necessary apartments. Mr. John Calvin Stevens, architect, Oxford Building, Portland, Me.

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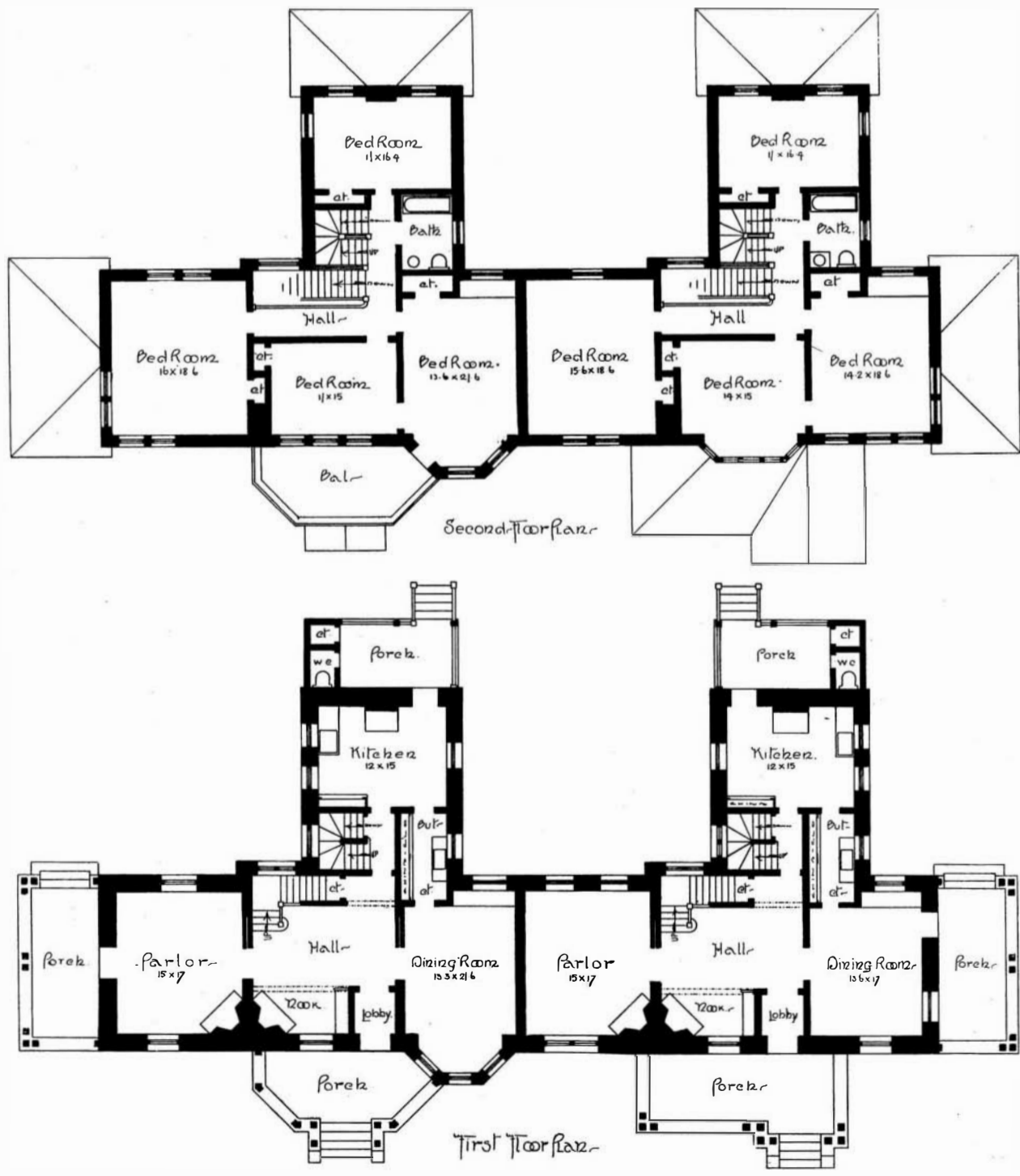
A TWIN HOUSE.

We present, on page 25, a most excellent design for a pair of houses, built of stone and mortar, and embracing a new idea in twin houses, and which have been recently erected for the Overbrook Farms Company, at Overbrook, Pa. The design is treated in the English Gothic style of architecture, and it has many unique features, and the most striking and novel one is the verge boards at gables, which are very handsomely cut and executed. The brick wall rising up through roof and between the buildings is a dividing line, and according to the ordinance of Philadelphia. The first story is built of Chestnut Hill granite of a bluish gray color; the second story is plastered. The gables are beamed, forming panels, which are filled in with similar plaster work. The roof is shingled and finished natural. Dimensions: The front is 100 ft., including both houses, and the depth 35 ft., exclusive of piazzas. Height of ceilings: Cellar, 7 ft.; first story, 9 ft. 6 in.; second, 9 ft.; third, 8 ft. 6 in. Both houses are trimmed alike, so a description of one will suffice for the other. The plan is most excellent, and the apartments are so arranged as to be provided with light and ventilation at both ends of the room. The vestibule is paneled in oak and provided with a tiled mosaic floor. Hall is trimmed with oak, and is furnished with a paneled wainscoting and ceiling beams. It contains a nook, separated by a spindle transom and archway, and provided with a paneled seat and an open fireplace built of brick, and furnished with a tiled hearth and a mantel made from special design. The staircase is a very handsome one, and is fitted up with carved newel posts, balusters and rail; it is lighted effectively by stained glass window on first landing. Parlor is treated in white and gold, and is furnished with a fireplace with tiled hearth and facings, and a mantel to correspond with the trim. Dining-room is trimmed with oak. It has a paneled wainscot and seat. Kitchen is isolated from the other apartments by the butler's pantry and rear hall, which is a good feature. This kitchen is trimmed and wainscoted with yellow pine, and is fitted up complete with the best modern conveniences. The second floor is trimmed with sycamore, and it contains four bedrooms, closets and bathroom, the latter tiled and furnished with the usual fixtures and exposed plumbing. Third floor contains two bedrooms and trunk-room. Cemented cellar contains laundry and other necessary apartments. The house is electric wired for call and light, and is heated by the central plant. Cost \$15,000. Mr. W. L. Price, 731 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa., was the architect.

Our engraving was made direct from a photograph of the building, taken specially for the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

A RESIDENCE AT PHILADELPHIA, PA.

We present herewith, on page 28, a residence recently completed for Messrs. Wendell & Smith, at 6361 Overbrook Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa. The engravings illustrate a commodious residence, carefully designed, devoid of unnecessary ornamentation, yet pleasing of outline and contrast in color. There are many pleasing features about the elevations, and the plans are well arranged. The first story and balustrade at front piazza are built of



A DOUBLE DWELLING HOUSE AT OVERBROOK FARMS, PA.—See page 34.