cerned in, or accountable for the acts done in the tower, although the clock thereon should falsify Time itself.

The argument was dropped, but left in a most undecided state.

STUDENT.—You are not obliged to adopt the style of design which prevailed in the architect's office you learned in. Read, think, and invent for yourself. Otherwise you will be a copyist and unoriginal.

WE often receive requests from subscribers to purchase and forward to their address, various drawing-instruments, books, etc. With every desire to oblige, we, nevertheless, must decline all such commissions; for the simple reason that we could not spare the time. By looking over our advertisements all persons in want of such matters, can find the address of an optician, or a bookseller, to whom a request made would be at once attended to.

PUBLICATIONS.

SCIENTIFIC.

THE NEW ELEMENTS OF HAND-RAILING: By ROBERT RIDDELL. Philadelphia: Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger. London: Sampson, Low & Co.

Like Mr. Riddell's previous works, this is truly practical; and so clear and simple that it requires little or no knowledge of Geometry to perfectly master the subject heretofore looked upon as so difficult. Forty accurately engraved plates, drawn to scale, distinctly illustrate the problems, and we speak from the card when we say that the stair-builder will find in this treatise all that he can require. The demand for it on both sides of the Atlantic is very great, and will increase as its sterling merit becomes known. We strongly recommend *The New Elements of Hand-Railing*, as the best book of its class in use.

THE TECHNOLOGIST.—This latest addition to our American scientific serials is really worthy of the wide spread patronage we understand it is receiving; and we find, by our foreign exchanges, that it is well received in Europe, as well as here at home. This is a pleasing proof of the complimentary fact that American scientific information is deemed worthy of especial notice in the very strong-hold of sound knowledge, founded on an experience very far beyond the limit of that of a young nation like ours. Civil Engineering is the leading speciality of this comprehensive periodical, and on that subject it is already an authority. But the *Technologist* does not confine itself to a few subjects, its field of thought, as its name would import, is wide and well cultivated. The numerous illustrations are well worthy of the excellence of the letter-press; and the whole leads us to wish it an infinite continuation of the success it has already so deservedly won.

THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.—Our hale old friend is as full of good cheer as ever, unterrified by the fearful opposition brought to bear upon his long and faithfully held position as a monitor and adviser in practical scientific matters. The *Scientific* has just closed another volume, and opened a new.

THE LAND OWNER.—This well posted and admirably got up Chicago publication presents a full quota of building news each month, and gives its friends a very desirable *melange* of readable matter.

THE REAL ESTATE JOURNAL is one of Chicago's weeklies that treats of building matters, and thereby helps on the progressive movement of the day. There is a close tie of consanguinity (so to speak) between the two subjects "Land, or Real Estate, and Building," and it is pleasing to see it appreciated, and the relationship so liberally acknowledged.

THE HORTICULTURIST for July contains very interesting matter. This publication is edited with energetic ability, and affords a fund of useful information on the subjects of importance to those who desire to cultivate to advantage their ground, their fruits and flowers, that should be in the hands of every citizen.

THE AMERICAN EXCHANGE AND REVIEW.—Always able, ever instructive, and intelligent on every subject connected with history, statistics, chemistry, and general scientific subjects. This monthly well deserves all its success.

THE WORKSHOP is a New York monthly republication, of a splendidly illustrated European journal of art progress.

LITERARY.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE, notwithstanding the recent loss of its esteemed founder, shows the same discriminate taste in its selections which was engrafted in it by him, and has made it what it is, first among the select.

OLD AND NEW.—It augurs well for the growing spirit of chaste yet spirited monthly literature, that this new enterprise is growing steadily into favor. We wanted just such a serial; and so far the want is promptly met.

THE PENN MAGAZINE.—No. 7 of this collegiate serial, a literary emanation of our University, has but a few papers, but they are of value as sound, scholarly, and attractive contributions to American literature, which go conclusively to prove that *alma mater* is not a silent sister.

THE

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

AND

BUILDERS' JOURNAL.

SYLVAN TEMPLE.

[FRONTISPIECE.]

GOING still farther back than the antiquity of architecture guides us, we seek even in Nature itself for the first and most beautiful of styles; and would gladly revive it, as pre-eminent among the most fascinating of designs from which man, with all his intelligence and taste has but borrowed his ideas, and created beautiful constructions from that which grew from the hand of nature to be his model, and the lesson of his art. Who that has ever walked in the groves of lofty elms, has failed to apprehend the meaning of that style which we call "gothic." There in all its primitive majesty, stands the unrivalled aisle, with its innumerable stately columns and graceful arches meeting and interlacing, festooned with vines and wreathed in Nature's loveliest modes, is it to be wondered at that the Druid priests sought inspiration in such sacred places; and that even now, in our day of boasted intelligence, the still living groves of that heathen worship in the British isles should be looked upon with awe, if not with veneration. But, the ordinary grove is not altogether consigned to dreary thought, or dread imaginings. It is often the sylvan temple of the mirthful deity, where Momus reigns supreme, with Apollo and Terpsichore as his advisers,

"All by the shady greenwood tree"

In our own country we have the most ample means of becoming acquainted with the architecture of Nature, as seen and felt in these forest temples; and even the "patch of woodland" spared by the clearing axe of the pioneers who first lay out our villages, is certain to become a chosen spot for Sabbath school recreation, or even for the solemn exercise of prayer. Religion never fails in such a place to bring its children nearer to their God.

But, beautiful in its wild irregularity as this natural temple may be, it is susceptible of such adaptation to our art-ideas as may readily combine the two with a link so light as to be scarcely felt; and Nature and Art be thus united by the simplest law of taste.

We are led to these reflections by the following communication from one whose taste is well known throughout the country, and whose present suggestion is that which speaks for itself, and for which we would claim the most general attention, for it is not alone applicable to Fairmount, or any other park, but to the immediate suburbs of every village

in the land, as an inexpensive, yet commodious and intrinsically beautiful union of Nature and Art.

EDITOR OF THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW.

"DEAR SIR: Philadelphia has at length secured the land and water for a Park, unequaled in this country in size and in the beauty of its rural scenery.

"Cannot you call the attention of those in authority to the simple, cheap, and everlasting decoration which could be made by constructing theatres on the plan of the Greek theatres, by terracing the head of some semi-circular valley.

"Such a valley can probably be found in the varied accidents of the ground on the banks of the Schuylkill. Turf seats such as are seen in the Amphitheatre or Hippodrome of the Villa Berghese, near the Porto del Popolo at Rome, would cost little, and if properly sodded and drained would last for ages.

"Such a theatre could be almost entirely excavated, and it would afford for Fourth of July celebrations, for Sunday School, and other public celebrations, and for worship on Sundays, a most admirable, convenient, and delightful place.

"A row of trees around the upper edge of the theatre, and two or three rows in place of the proscenium, might be added with advantage, representing the colonnade or porticos of the ancient theatres.

"Then, too, what a noble sylvan temple could be constructed in less time than the great cathedrals of Europe have taken to build, by planting the graceful New England elm in positions of the piers or pillars of a gothic cathedral.

"The plan of Notre Dame at Paris, or the Cathedral of Ulm could be thus planted, and in a few years a temple of unequaled gothic tracery would rise into the air like Solomon's, without sound of hammer or tool of iron.

"Lofty trees, as pines, might be planted at the west front to represent the twin towers of the temple. Eighteen lofty white pines would have a good effect thus placed.

"I send, herewith, a sketch for planting such a temple, 260 by 200 feet, admitting by successive plantings, of new outer rows, of indefinite enlargement.

"Very respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

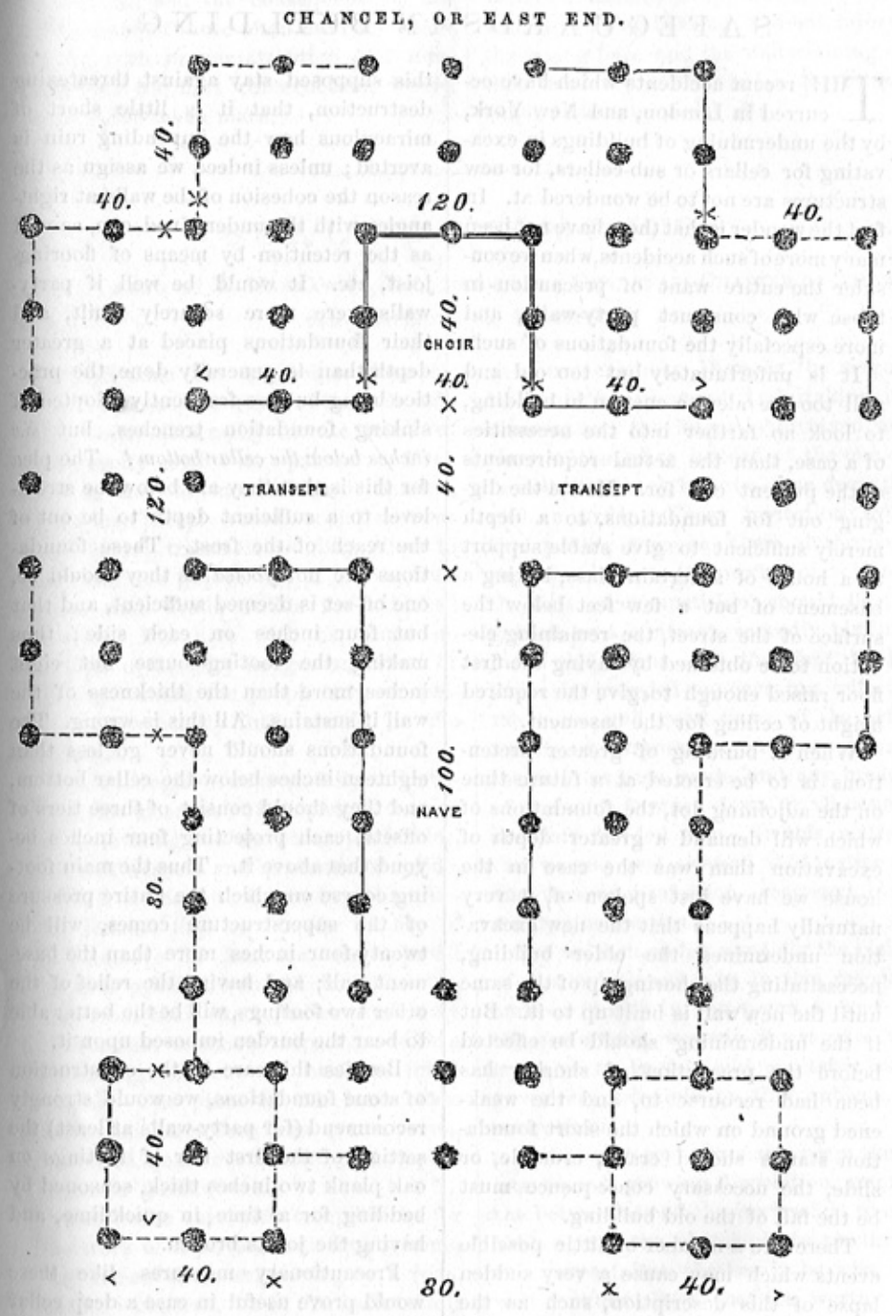
"M. C. MEIGS."

Washington, D. C., June 27, 1870.

Such is the plan proposed by General Meigs for growing up natural architecture, which must be as popular as it will be permanently beautiful.

In the laying out of such designs imagination must have much to do, for the growth of the idea is to be developed by time, rather than by the hand of man. The study of the nature of the trees to compose the parts of the whole design, and the stretch into the future which the imagining of the full-grown thought in its perfection, would incur care.

The more the mind rests upon this proposition, the greater is the variety of added fancies which suggest themselves; and ivy-bound sylvan columns, sustaining graceful boughs which send forth innumerable branches, bearing tiny twigs that lift aloft the leaves which shelter from the fiery sun, yet let the generous light descend in softened flecks upon the moss-clad sward, laid out in seats below. Nor would there be a want of choiristers in such a cathedral; for, every aisle would have a choir of its own, most fitted for the music of the skies. The amphitheatre would be circular or elliptic in plan, the chosen trees arranged conformably. But, our limits will not admit of a full review of all the varied and charming uses, to which this sylvan architecture might be most tastefully applied. For the present we conclude with the hope that our talented friends, the landscape gardeners, will take the subject up and treat it as they know so much better how to do than ourself, who are more used to deal in architecture of a solider, but not of as genial a character.



PROPOSED SYLVAN CATHEDRAL.


Moby.
E.SEARS