

works of art would not entirely depend on gifts, but also be improved by the purchase of desirable objects often thrown upon the market, and constantly enhancing in value.

J. J.

IDIOSYNCRASIES OF GRIEF.

A dignified clergyman was conducting the funeral services of a parishioner. The mourners had gathered around the grave and a solemn stillness prevailed, broken only by the sound of low sobbing and the voice of the officiating minister. To his horror and astonishment, he suddenly became aware of suppressed titters from several directions. He glanced upward, and his own gravity was almost overcome when he beheld the poodle of the widow leaping backward and forward over the

grave with a large crape bow attached to his tail.

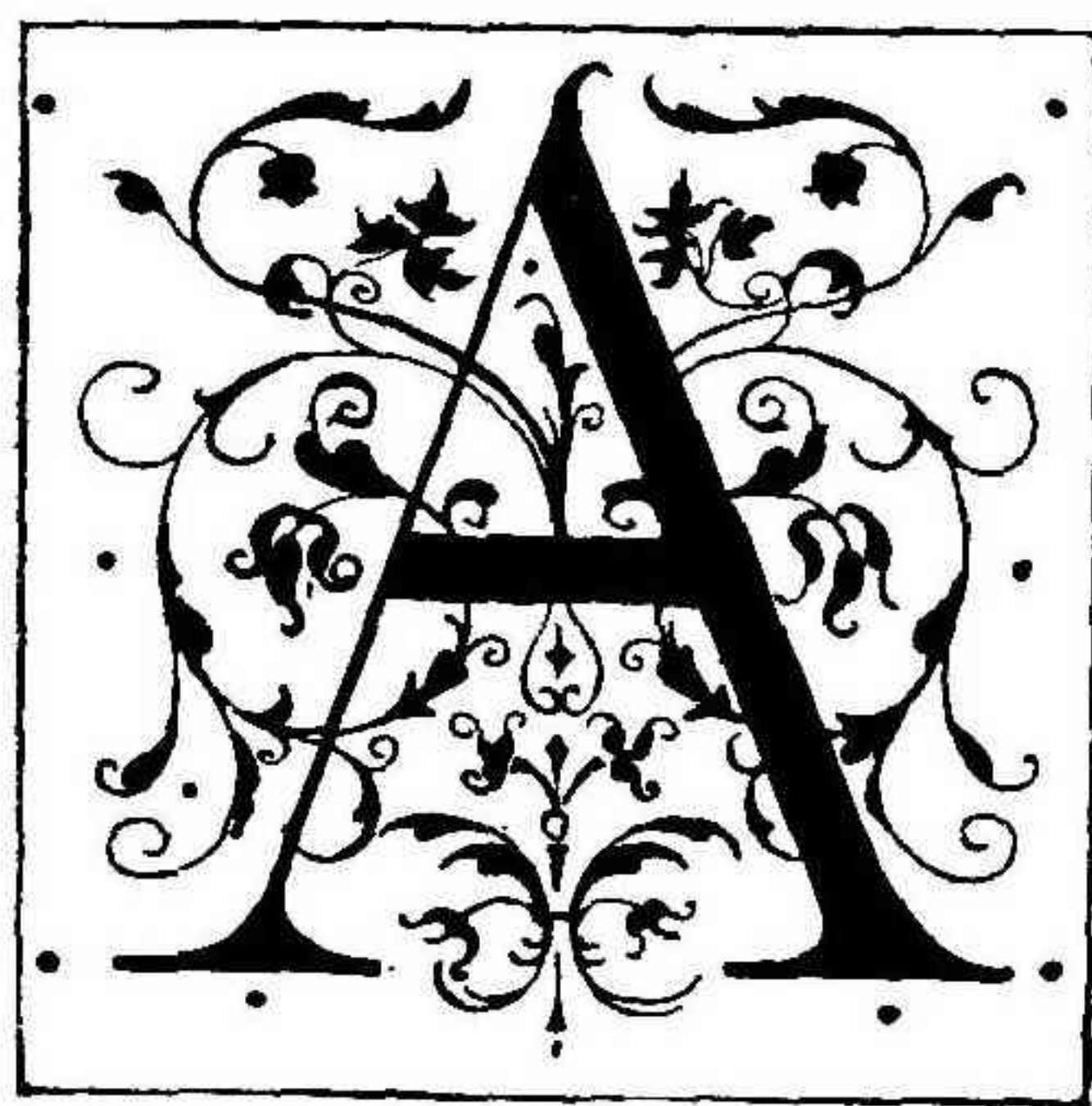
M. B. S.

THE PROGRESSIVE INDIAN.

A Canadian lady, visiting a party of Indians temporarily encamped in the neighborhood, had presented a squaw with a cinnamon-brown dress. The following summer the squaw called upon her. Raising the skirt of her black dress, she explained, "Nice dress you give me last year; I make it black with bark. Maybe you got another now?" The lady went upstairs to ransack her stores, and presently returned with a black dress. The squaw rejected it with a disdainful wave of her hand, exclaiming, "No, no, not any good, won't suit; I go out of mourning next week."

M. B. S.

PRACTICAL HOMES.



FEW miles from Philadelphia, on a hill overlooking that sea of brick, with the Public Building in the centre, like a great, white sentinel, we built two years ago, a house from the

design given in this issue; and it was so satisfactory both in price and arrangement that I offer it in the hope that some of the "Home-Makers" may find something in it which they can use.

It stands at the intersection of two roads, and the design shows the carriage-porch, entering from the side; it is built of local stone, with a dark slate roof. The porch has large posts, with stone base, and it is so plain that it depends entirely upon the outline of the building and the beauty of the landscape for its attractiveness.

The front doors of oak have bevelled plate in the upper panels, covered with a wrought-iron grill; we were anxious to avoid the trouble of attempting to clean

the glass through the open design of the grill, so we had a large iron bolt with screw end inserted at each of the four corners; a corresponding hole bored through the door-frame allowed it to set in place; it is then held by large screw-heads with ornamental tops, put on the inside, and corresponding with the other hardware.

The vestibule is panelled, showing small square panels to a height of five feet. The oak seat has a hinged lid, forming a receptacle for overshoes. The rafters of both the vestibule and hall are evenly spaced and cased with oak, showing a solid wood ceiling. The hall has an oak floor, narrow selected boards laid down after all the plastering is finished; a wainscoting corresponds with the vestibule. The four windows are of white ribbed glass, leaded with a border of delicate rainbow colors; this glass answers all the necessary purposes of decoration, light, and color. The strip of plaster, "sand finish," above the wainscoting, is a dull blue-gray, the same color being used for the long tile hearth and mantel face. Black wrought-iron andirons, newel light, and hardware.

The seat at the side of the fire-place is hinged, and gives a place for the wood

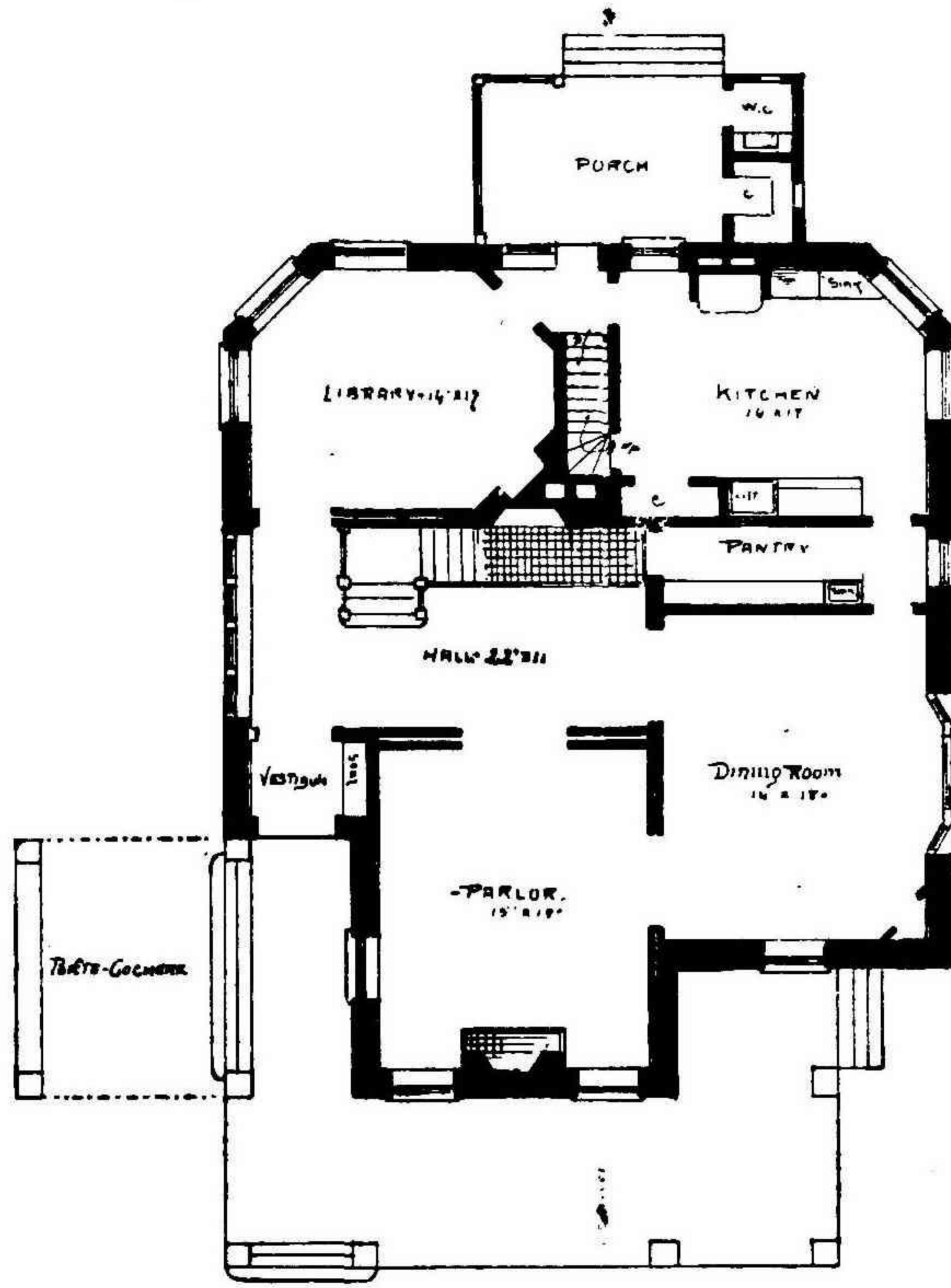
used in the fire-place, one end being divided off for the dust brush and pan.

The stairs have broad, low steps, with two square landings. The steps in a house where there are children should not have a rise of more than $6\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch each. It is a great effort for these little people, to mount high, narrow stairs.

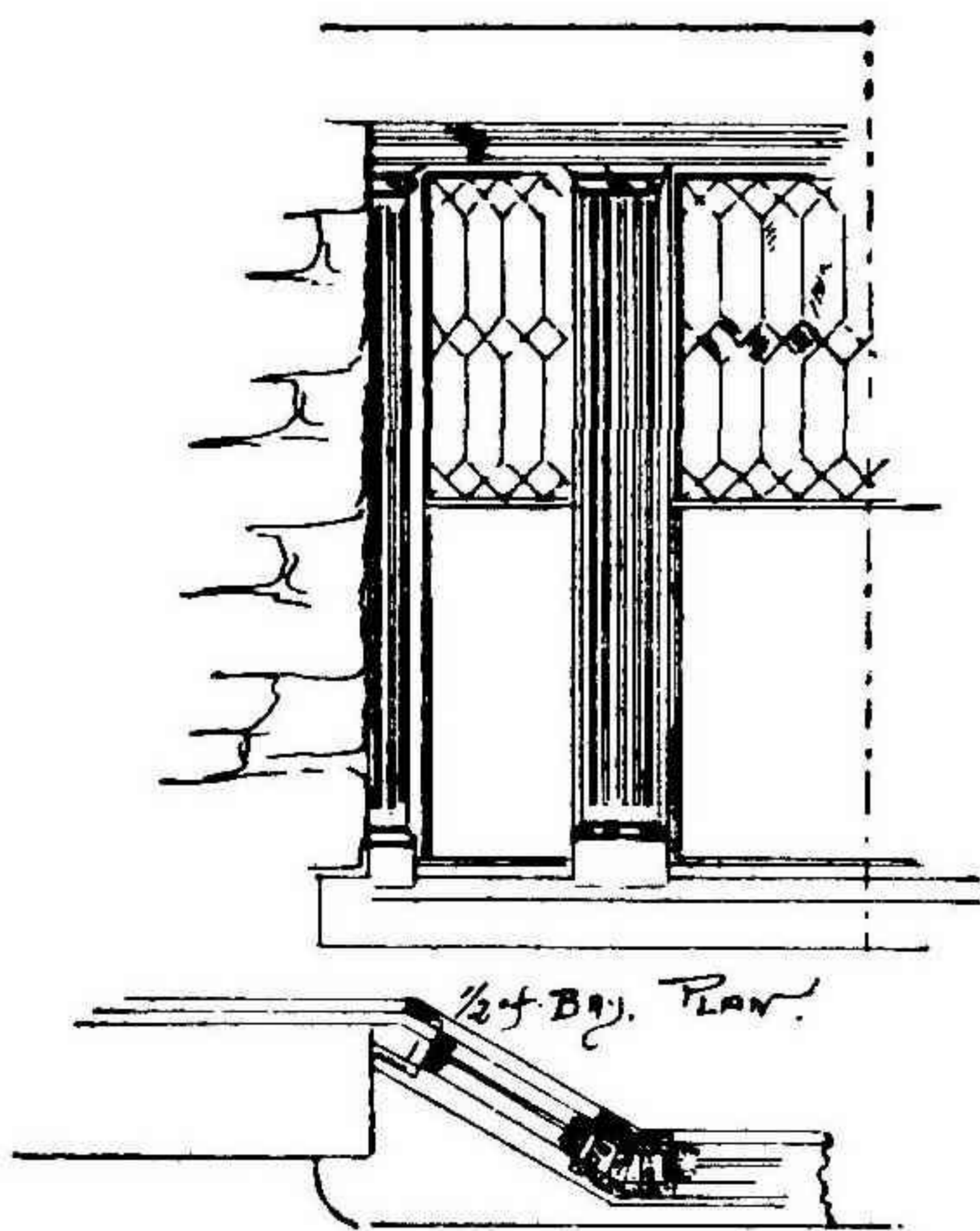
The library is rather more divided from the general house than is usually desirable, but it was designed as a possible office, giving the door directly opposite the front entrance, and a rear exit. This room we finished in walnut, with a broad, open fire-place, tile hearth and face of a light copper color. The gas-fixtures are of copper finish, a large central library light having a dull yellow globe. The walls are a dull yellow, with a frieze showing the shades of

brown and copper mixed. The rugs, and what little furnishing was required, are in Turkish effects. The book-cases are low and open, a central section being finished as a writing-desk; books are not to be considered as ornamental necessities in a well-furnished library, but the gems for which the room is but a setting. I like the cases low and open, so that a book may be taken possession of without any preliminary unlocking of doors. Children are more apt to form a healthy habit of reading where the books are in easy reach. The windows have low, broad sills, forming little alcoves behind the curtains.

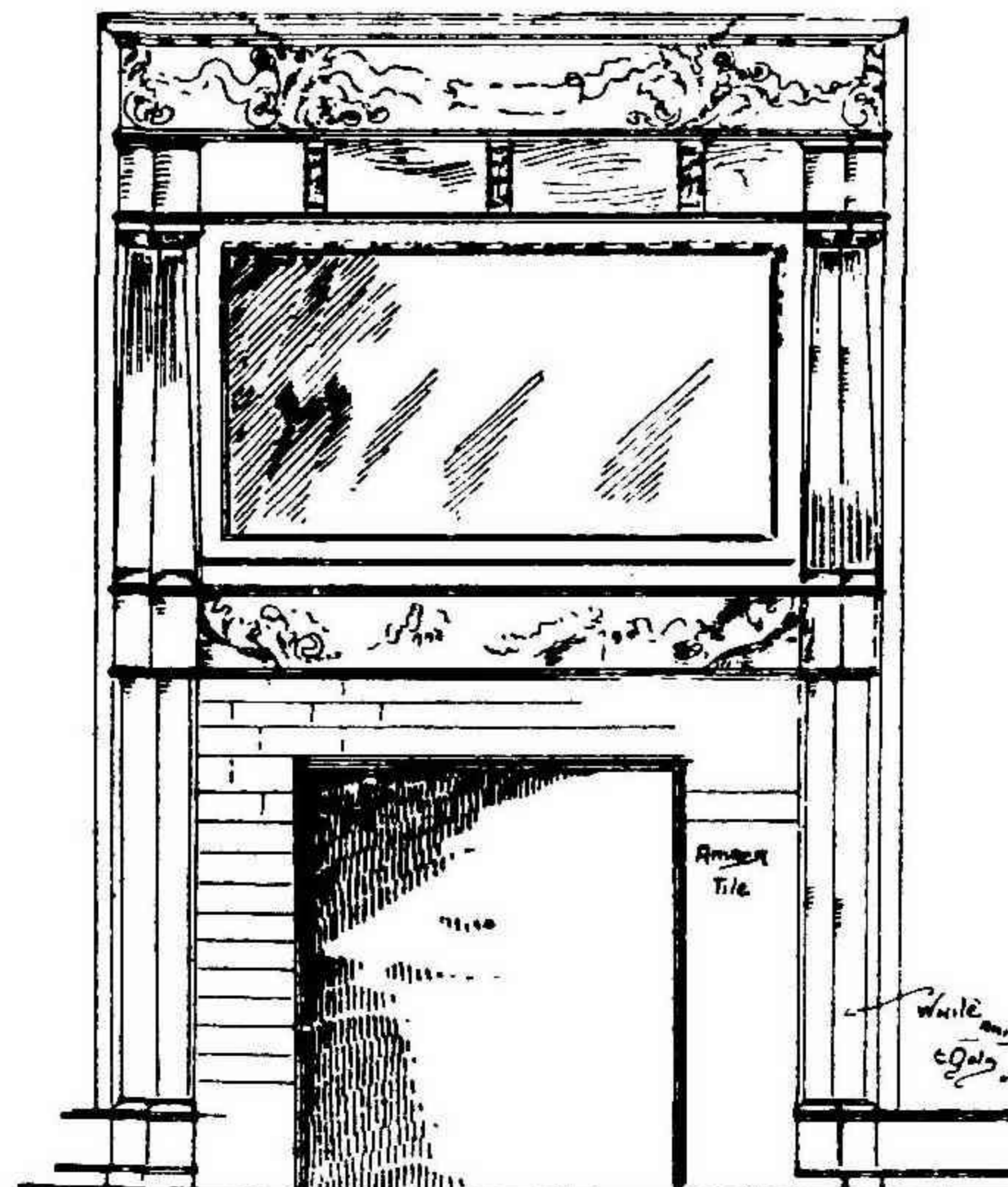
The doors leading from the library to the hall, hall to parlor, and hall to dining-room, are all sliding-doors, hung on noiseless tracks, the lower half being



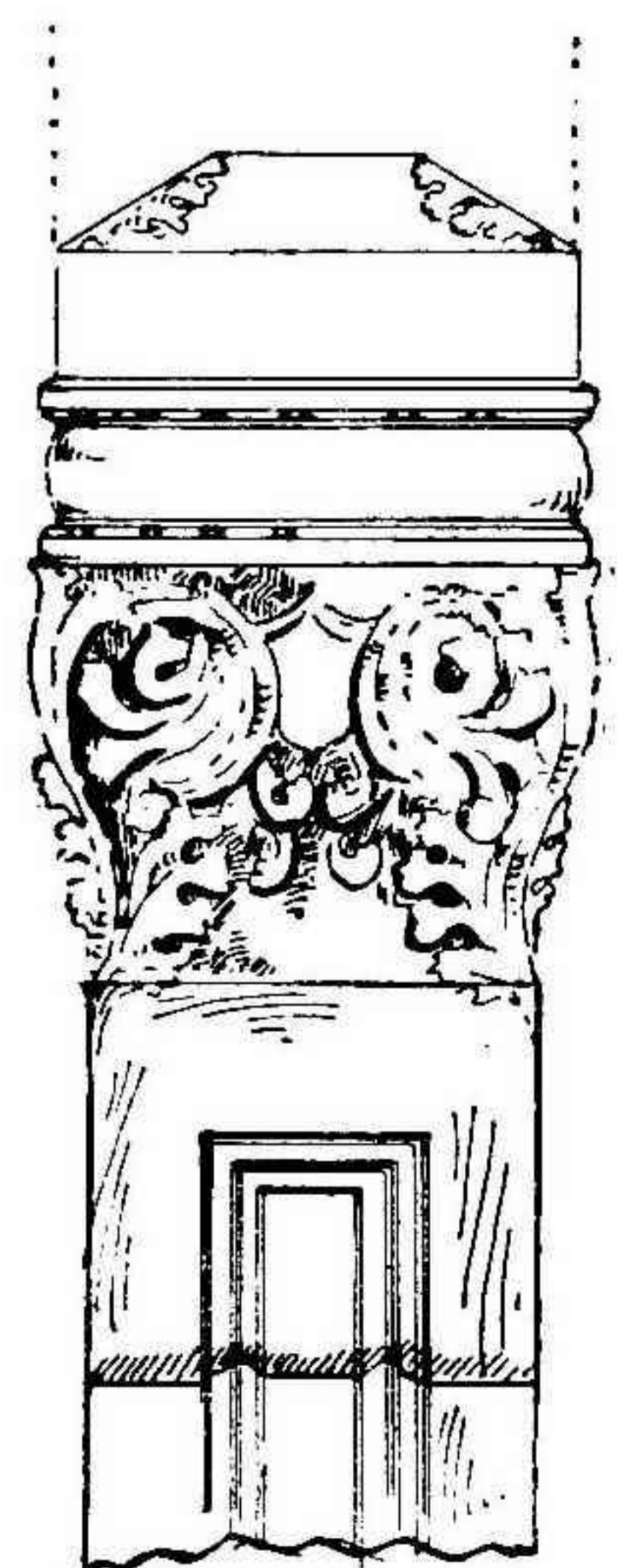
FIRST FLOOR PLAN No 3



Dining Room Bay -



PARLOR MANTEL - DETAILS - No 2



Head of Newel-Post

panelled to correspond with the wainscotting.

The parlor in this case is in white and gold; it answered admirably, as there were no children; but I should recommend warm, dark colors. Delightful as the contemplation of such a room is, it is not worth sacrificing the time and patience it requires to preserve it in the midst of a full-fledged nest of young Americans.

I have given you a sketch for the mantel, the ornament just touched with gold; light amber tile hearth and jamb facings; brass andirons; small gilt lines run on the moldings of the doors and inside blinds. The paper is what is known as white isinglass finish, with a deep frieze of white, showing a scroll of yellow, a gilt picture molding. The furnishing and carpets were in the general tone of yellow and white with a touch of color. The hardware brass-finish, the gas-fixtures brass, with crystal pendants.

The dining-room is in oak, antique finish; the front window extending to the floor; the bay has a broad window-seat, panelled in front and upholstered. The floor is of oak, a large rug leaving a wood border of two feet entirely around the room. There are no long curtains in this room. A dining-room cannot be less than thirteen or fourteen feet wide where the family indulges in the luxury of a waiter, as that width barely allows space for passage with a tray. The sideboard is on the wall adjoining the pantry; the side-table between the sliding-doors. A corner china-closet with glass doors, good strong oak chairs, one carving-chair, a square dining-table, and two or three etchings finish this room, with just a word for the walls: they are covered with a heavy stamped paper, a warm terra-cotta in color; an oak picture-rail, oxidized silver-finish is given to the hardware and gas fixtures, all the hardware showing a plain surface that is easily cleaned; the hinges have loose pins so that any one can remove the doors.

The pantry-doors have double-acting hinges; it forms a passage from the kitchen to the dining-room and main hall. One door always being closed, the odor of the cooking does not reach the living rooms. The pantry has a long dresser; four doors above, with glass in the panels, move on a small brass track, instead of flying out into the passage-way; an open counter-shelf below, a porcelain-lined sink with high butlers' cocks, a drain-board, four drawers for

napkins, table-cloths, tea-towels, and brushes; a long drawer for table silver; three doors below for larger dishes, cake-boxes, etc. The little dumb-waiter has a slide from the wall of the pantry as well as the kitchen, and goes direct to the storage-cellar. The walls of the pantry and kitchen are finished with a plaster known as "soapstone," a hard gray finish that can be wiped off as readily as the soapstone wash-trays you are all familiar with. The kitchen closet is built with bins for all kinds of grocery storage, room for flour and sugar barrels. If it is desirable to keep this door locked the door can open from the pantry. It seems an unnecessary humiliation to lock a store-room door; an implied distrust often creates a real dishonesty in one's servants. The little dumb-waiter runs to the cellar, and can be used for coal or provisions; in several cases we have extended them to the attic, it saves so many steps.

The cellar-way coming up in the rear hall, as we had a laundry in the basement, and it allowed a free passage without going through the kitchen, and the temptation for stopping for a cup of tea, which seems an inherent weakness on wash-day.

The man coming from the stable goes directly to the furnace without going through the house.

The outside water-closet is a cast-iron hopper, porcelain-lined, with a water supply carefully trapped and joined to the main soil-pipe. Detached closets with open cesspools should never be tolerated—they are both unhealthy and unsightly.

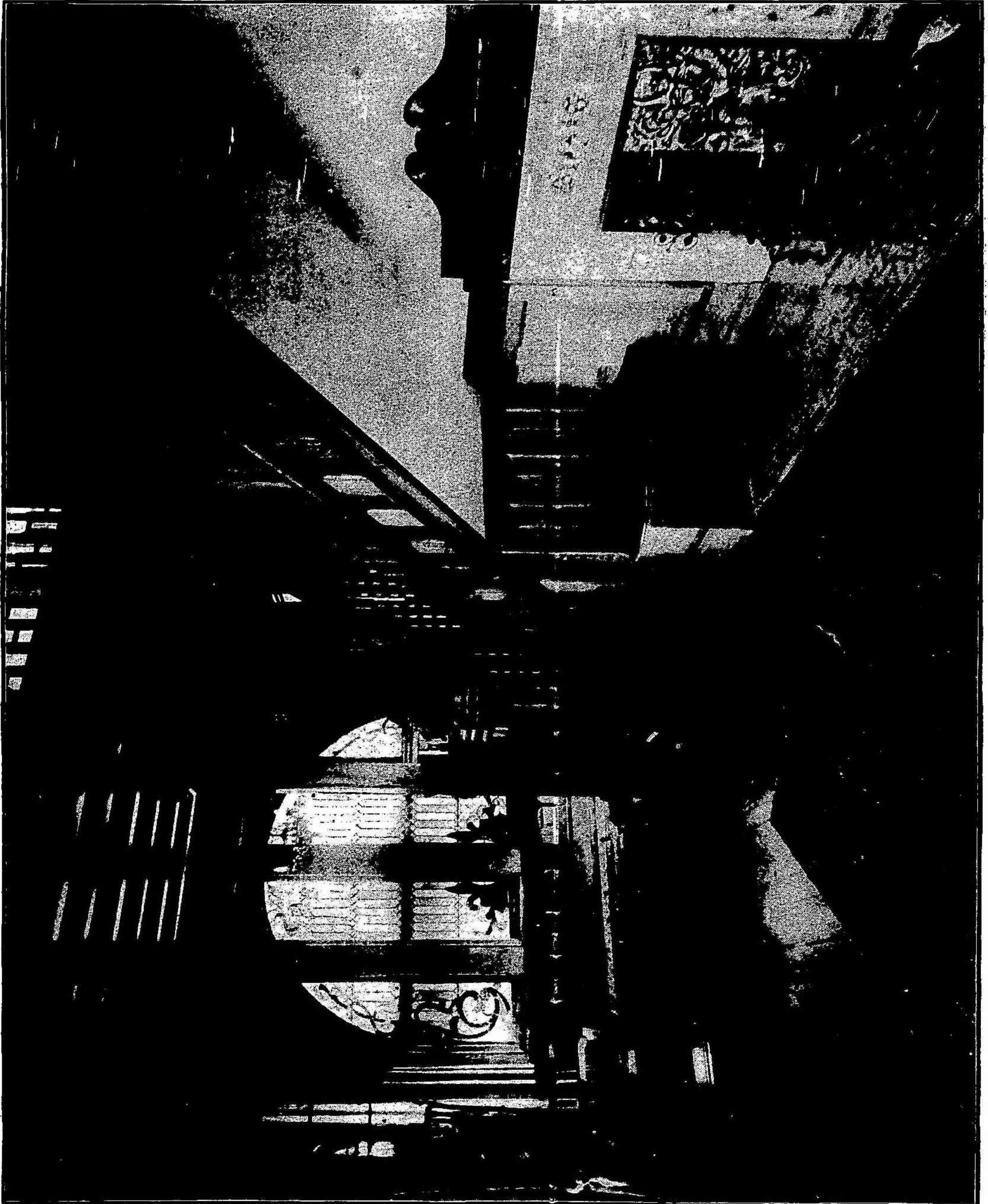
On the second floor we have four chambers, finished respectively in old rose, pale blue, Nile green, and a primrose yellow; the wood-work painted to match, the colors all very delicate in tone. The hall is in oak and blue as on the first floor. We have opening out of the main hall what no house should be without—a linen closet, with space enough for a few evening-dresses, drawers for sewing-material, shelves for bedding and linen, and enough space under for at least one trunk and a travelling-bag, always ready for use. A large closet for each chamber, two for the front chamber.

I am politically in favor of "woman's rights," but domestically I espouse the cause of "man's rights." Almost every man is restricted to the two hooks on a closet-door, one corner of the top shelf and a shoe bag, one bureau-drawer and a shaving-

mug. So in behalf of this branch of suffering humanity I add a separate closet for his undisputed use.

The bath-room is at the head of the main stairs. All the plumbing is exposed as simple and direct as possible. A medi-

In one house we arranged the dormers so that they formed a succession of little rooms. I went up one day and found that the tiny daughter and her family of dolls had taken possession of them, and set up house-keeping with a satisfaction as genu-



THE VESTIBULE, WITH FIREPLACE.

cine-cabinet over the washstand, a rack for sponges and towels.

The third floor has a tank room, a large servants' room with two closets, and plenty of air. A store-room and a large play-room.

ine as every home-maker ought to feel in surveying the result of her labor in her effort to make a home.

Minerva Parker.

Parker, Minerva. "Practical Homes." *The Home-Maker* VI.1 (1891): 63+. Nineteenth Century Collections Online. Web. 21 Sept. 2015.

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