

PRACTICAL HOMES.

THE house selected for publication this month has been built several times with slight alterations, and it has been so satisfactory that I venture to offer it, in the hope that it may be of interest. It was built of local stone, laid rock base rubble work, with ridge pointing. The arrangement of the bays gave a front view to each main room on the first and second floor; a very desirable feature in a country house.

The front entrance is a large oak door, with black rustless iron strap hinges and latch; the other half paneled with beveled glass. The rafters of the hall cased with oak—an oak window seat on the landing. The hall windows of leaded glass, white fluted with a design in amber.

An open oak stair-case from the reception hall to the third floor with an open well. The parlor, communicating through sliding doors, is finished in natural cherry, a corner fire-place with pretty tile hearth and jambs; the walls were papered with satin finish paper, the tone of the room all being in pink and a light fawn color. The dining-room and library were finished and furnished in oak. A large open fire-place in the library and broad window seats. The dining-room wall we papered in a plain blue-gray paper, and the library in the same color with a design in lighter shade and gold.

The oak halls were done in felt with a deep frieze, the color being a light wood tone. The pantry was fitted up with all necessary drawers for linen, and dressers for china and glass, a porcelain sink and drain board.

The rear stairs start from the pantry, avoiding the heat and odor escaping from the kitchen. The kitchen in this case has a delightful view, the side laundry windows and the door making a direct cross current of air. We had stationary tubs, a large sink, circulating boiler and a Gauze oven range.

The second floor chambers, you will see, are all arranged for furnishing, having sufficient spaces for the various pieces usually put in a bed-room, a thing which seems to be frequently overlooked. They were all finished in cypress, and papered in paper of the same pattern, the front chamber being in pale blue, the adjoining

one in pink, while the room over the library was in light yellow.

The bath-room, communicating with the family chamber, was finished in yellow pine, the wall being wainscoted four feet high; a closet over the hall is for soiled linen; the pipes are all run in pockets covered with a board screwed in place. All plumbing pipes should be so located as to be easy of access and put up so as to drain rapidly.

The room over the kitchen was intended for a play-room and sewing-room with a large closet adjoining.

The third floor has three chambers and a tank room, the front one opening on to the front balcony—a very pleasant little room.

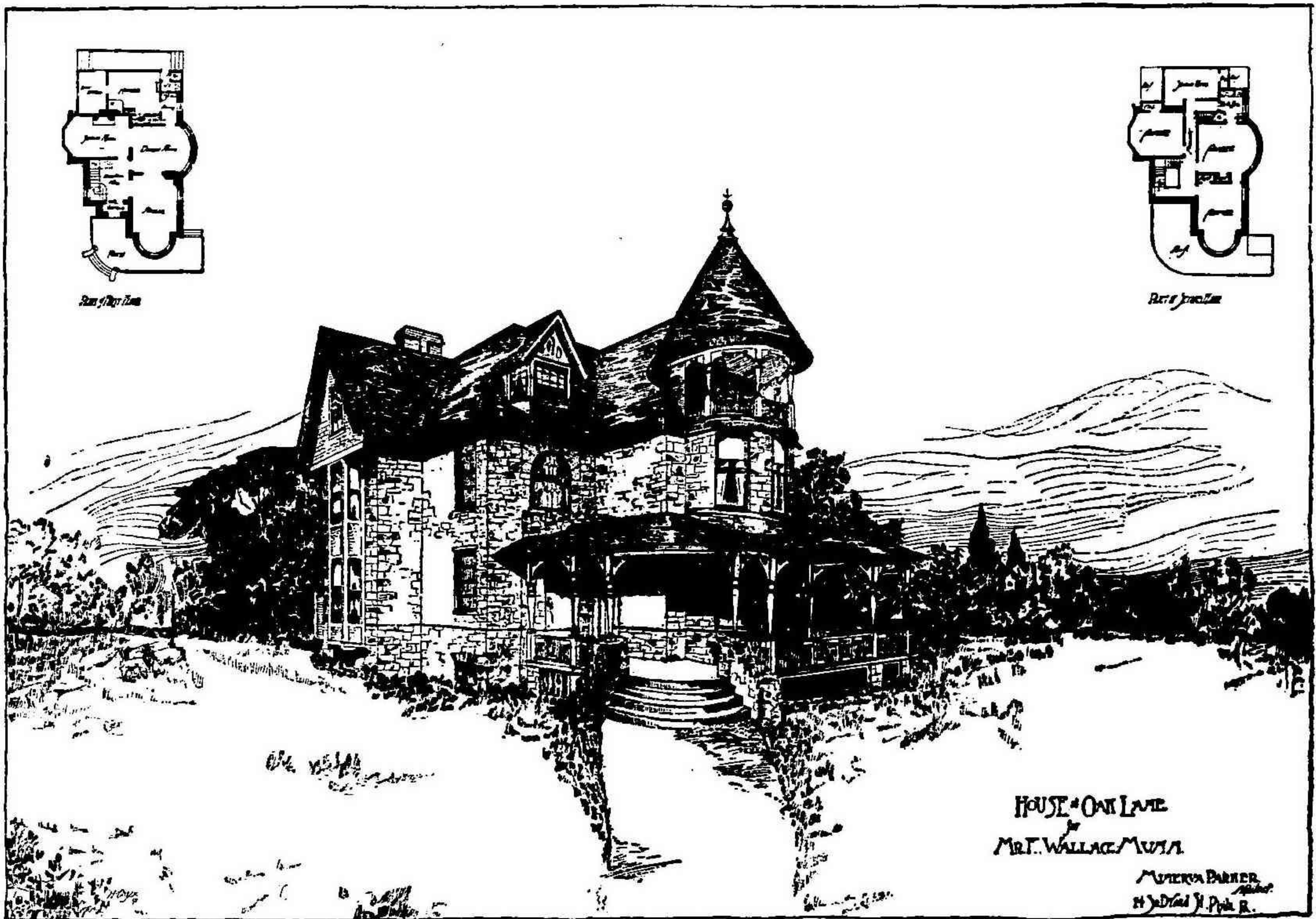
The style of elevation ("there's the rub")? I am so often asked what style these houses are built in, I know no better name than that given by one of our bright women who said they have some high sounding name for it, but I think it is American Hodge Podge. Well even Hodge Podge can be tolerable if it is not too violently new and variegated. All of the porches should have the same detail. The moldings have the same general outline. See that there is not too great a variety of dormer windows, and too wild a profusion of designs in the slates and shingles. There is a happy state between severe simplicity and flaunting pretention—an entire absence of anything offensive. There seem to be states of passive beauty in our houses that is scarcely more than the negative of the actively ugly.

The late lamented reign of Queen Anne left us a legacy of things strange and inconvenient, yet occasionally mixed with something so quaint and attractive that we are resigned to her short rule. The mansard roof, Swiss cottage, and Italian villa all retired before her march. The jig saw no longer sends forth its flimsy ornament, and we are all turning our attention to a new era of solid construction and well executed finish in our homes. The new work has a strong flavor of the Colonial style,—our new city building is much influenced by the Italian and French Renaissance. The newer libraries and public buildings, the churches and schools all show a strong influence of some revived type; but no two the same influence.

No one person, perhaps, did more to bring the beauty of harmony to the attention of the architect and the American public than the late H. H. Richardson, who so beautifully developed the possibilities of Romanesque work.

Just now there is such a genuine interest in Colonial work both old and new, and there is so much to recommend it, that I shall devote a design and paper to that subject.

child have its own compartment, and keep it in order; have in an alcove a large seat that opens, and behold within a small bath tub, with drawers or shelves at the side for all the toilet articles. Few bathrooms are large enough to bathe a child in conveniently, the tub is too high, and it necessitates the carrying of a great many things back and forth, is often poorly heated, and one is apt to find themselves with a small squirming bit of humanity on their hands,



In your own houses remember a few of the necessary things for your comfort and health, and have as many time and temper saving appliances as possible. Locate the house well back to allow room for a garden; nothing gives more pleasure than the care and arrangement of a door yard. Don't build a house to look at; let every room be designed for some purpose, and see that it is used for that alone.

Don't be afraid of light and air, they are the things that do most to beautify our homes.

Don't have a house so dainty, or so fine, that there is no place for the children, and since they are the most precious members of the household, have a nursery, with large dressers for toys. Let every

and some necessary article in an adjoining room.

So much is said of higher education for women, so much uncalled-for speculation as to what use mothers can make of Greek and Latin; just how they can be improved by the advent of the popular movement of clubs among women. I think if there is no need of using training as a bread winner; that it is just here in the machinery of her own home, in its management and adornment, that she has most need of higher education. It is this training that makes a woman see, not less but more, in the smallest thing, this systematic training which makes her study the cause of success and reason of failure.

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