

COUNTRY HOMES—RURAL COTTAGES.

Homes in most new villages, such as are continually springing up in all parts of the country, lack both taste and convenience in their ornamentation and arrangement. We present herewith a few designs which, though capable of execution at no great cost, show what may be done to make a cottage home an object of beauty and refined taste. Our engravings are selected from a large number in the pages of Downing's "Cottage Residences," an excellent work published by John Wiley & Son, of New York city, which will be found more fully noticed elsewhere in this paper. The object in view in designing the cottage represented in our first illustration (Figs. 9 and 10) is internal convenience. There are many families, some composed of invalids or persons advanced in years, who have a strong preference for a plan giving the kitchen and at least one bedroom upon the

room, and other apartments, all on the first floor. Above are five good bedrooms with a closet in each. For the exterior of the cottage, to be covered with vertical boarding, a simple rustic style has been chosen. The veranda and trellises over the windows are intended for vines, not merely as supports, but rather as thereby giving an air of rural refinement and poetry to the house without expense. They should be constructed of cedar poles with the bark on, and, if neatly put together, will be much more becoming to such a cottage than the most elaborate carpentry work.

The design headed "a river cottage" (Fig. 132) is, as its name indicates, a very pretty Gothic dwelling intended to be located on the bank of a river or sheet of water. It has, therefore, a road front and a water front; the former having the entrance porch extended out beyond the line of the house, to answer the purpose of a *porte-cochere*, and the

latter provided with an ample veranda, connected with the lower lawn by a flight of steps. There is a basement, and above, on the first floor, a large parlor with a bay window to command the view, and also dining room, library, etc. The second story contains six rooms. The walls of the basement are of stone, above which the building is of wood filled in with brick. The detail of the finish, both on the exterior and interior, is intended to be plain, leaving the good effect to depend rather upon well balanced proportions than embellishment.

In the next engraving (Figs. 105 and 106) we present a plan for a plain house where abundance of room is more of an object than elaborate ornamentation. The decorations are few and simple, and in keeping with the general effect of the structure. The veranda at the entrance is very broad, and the entrance hall large and roomy. The dining room

A COTTAGE IN THE ENGLISH OR RURAL GOTHIC STYLE.



Fig. 9.

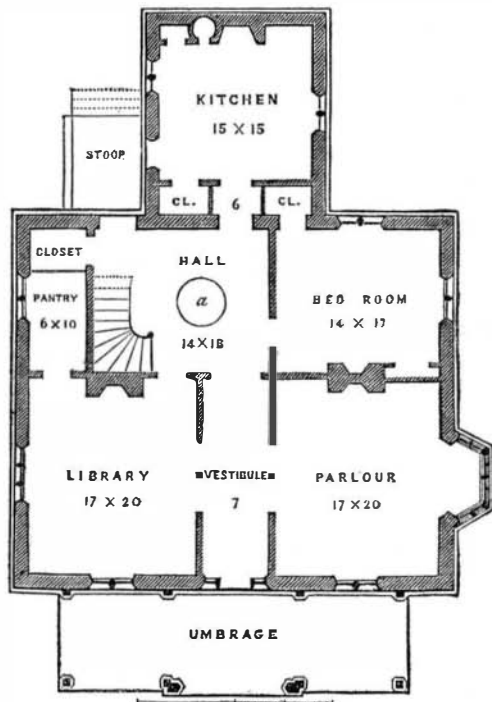
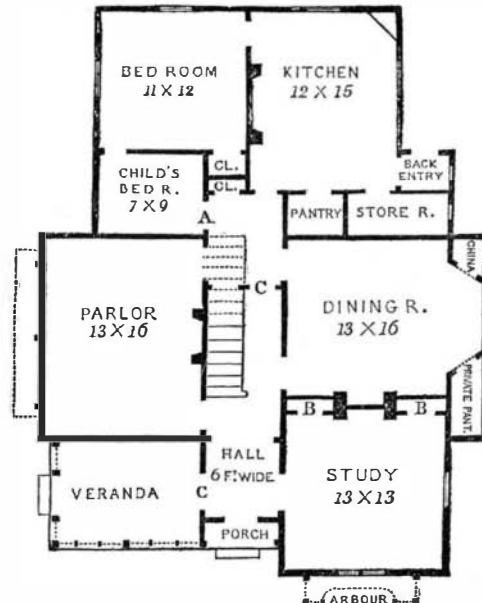


Fig. 10.

A COTTAGE FOR A COUNTRY CLERGYMAN.



Fig. 81.



Principal Floor.—Fig. 82.

same floor with the living rooms, and in which there is little or no necessity for ascending or descending stairs. A glance at the plan of the first floor will show how this idea is carried out. The second story contains two large and two small bedrooms. The elevation is in the English cottage style, so generally admired for the picturesqueness evinced in its tall gables ornamented by handsome verge boards and finials, its neat or fanciful chimney tops, its latticed windows and other striking features. The material for the construction is brick and cement, colored in imitation of Bath or Portland stone, or smooth brick colored after some soft neutral tint. The window frames, porch, veranda and verge board may be painted the same as the walls, and sanded or else grained in imitation of oak. About an acre and a quarter of ground would be a suitable plot for this dwelling. One half of the area in the rear might be devoted to a garden for fruits and vegetables, and the remainder laid out as a lawn with shrubbery and flower beds.

In our second design (Figs. 81 and 82), a very tasteful and pretty cottage, suitable for a country clergyman, is represented. Here there is a conveniently arranged study opening directly on the veranda, a parlor, dining

A RIVER COTTAGE.

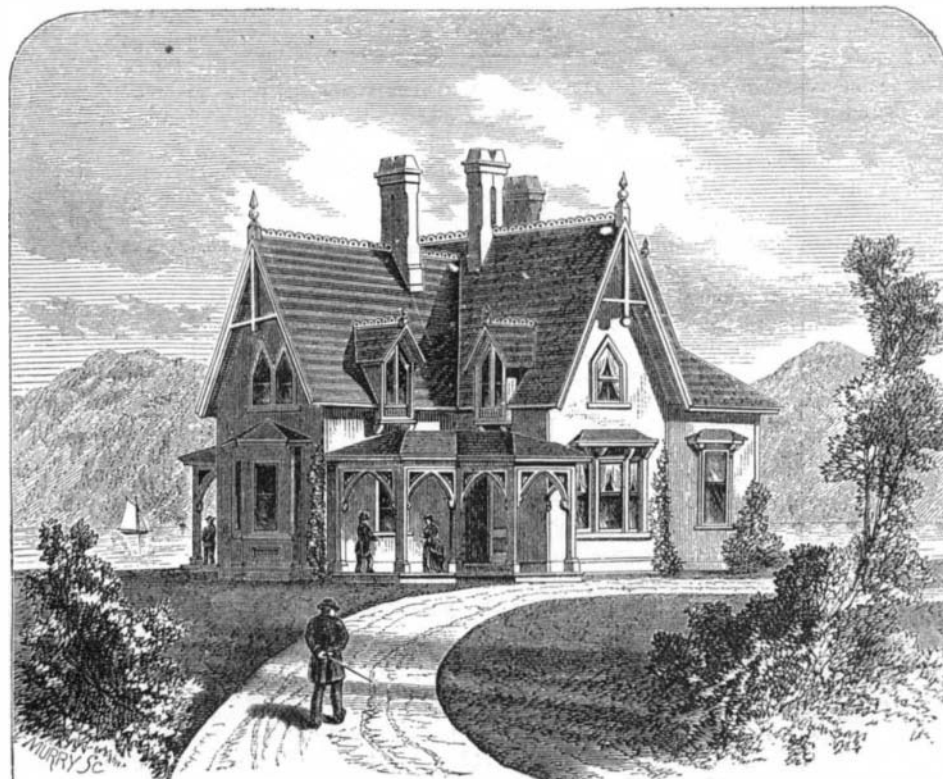


Fig. 132.

has a bay window and is conveniently situated as regards the kitchen. The second story contains five chambers, and the attic may be divided off into three large rooms. The cellar extends under the whole house. A few vines may be trained to climb the walls, and some rustic vases and other ornaments arranged before the front will give a tasteful appearance to the building.

We add one more design (Figs. 36 and 37), that of a cottage villa in the bracketed mode, the strongly marked character of which is derived mainly from the bold projection of the roof, supported by ornamental brackets, and from the employment of brackets for supports in various other parts of the building. This mode of construction will be found especially suitable in the Southern States, owing to the coolness and dryness of the upper story during hot weather, afforded by the shade of the peculiar shaped roof. On the second floor are five bed rooms. There is a handsome balcony which is entered upon from a casement window at the ends of the hall in this story, shaded by the broad overhanging roof, and two balconies which accompany, in a similar manner, the large windows in the two chambers at either side of this hall. There are three chambers in the attic story. In the basement story, which is raised about three and a half feet above the ground, are kitchen, laundry, store room, and cellar. The materials for

A PLAIN HOUSE.



Fig. 105.

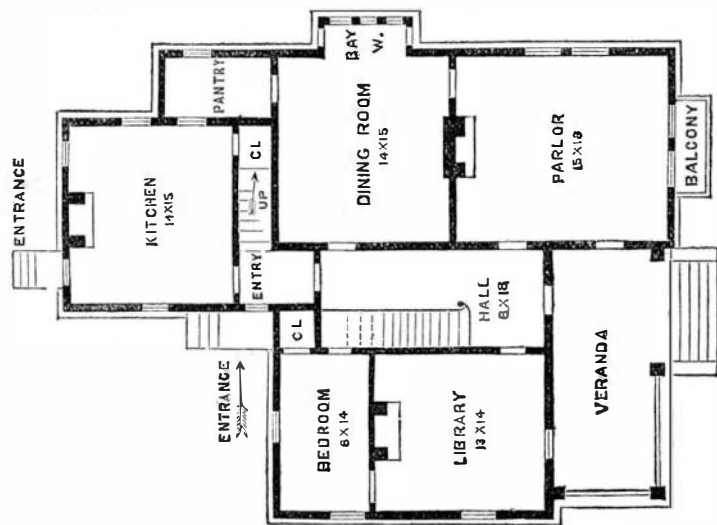


Fig. 106.

A COTTAGE VILLA IN THE BRACKETED MODE.



Fig. 36

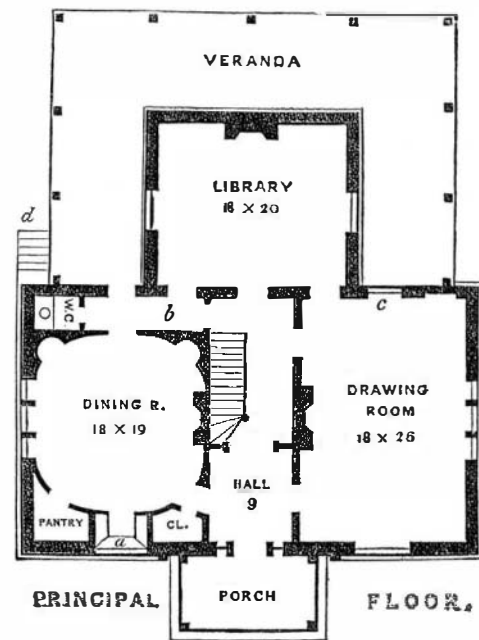


Fig. 37.

construction are brick and stucco or simply wood—the latter being employed with excellent effect.

**FRUIT FORK.**



This invention is designed to afford a means of conveniently holding ripe fruit, so that in eating the same the juice will not soil the fingers or come in contact with clothes or carpet. It consists of a fork having a suitable number of prongs, of proper length and shape, which project from the middle of a bowl in which the liquid flowing from the fruit is caught. A handle is connected with the lower side or, if desired, with one edge of the cup.

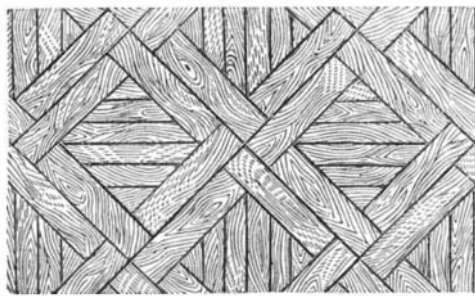
The device may be made of silver plate of any tasteful pattern, and form a very convenient and handsome article of table ware.

It was patented on February 18, 1873, by Mrs. Isabella C. Draper, of corner of 106th street and Third avenue, New York.

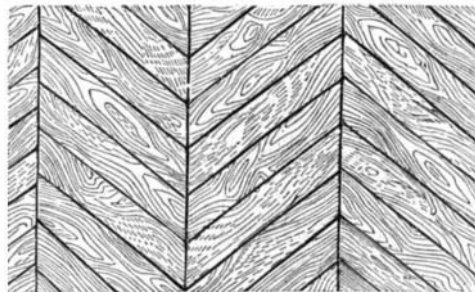
**Substitute for Carpets.**

With properly laid floors, carpets may easily be dispensed with altogether for four or five months in the year in the extreme Northern States, and much longer in the South. With merely a plain floor, a small hall or a small room may be made to look very pretty indeed, and even elegant, by means of a good sized piece of carpet, with a handsome border in the center, and a few rugs displayed here and there. In almost any hall a rug or two will alone be necessary, either for comfort or ornament, if the walls or ceilings are properly decorated, and sufficient furniture of good pattern and a few pleasing pictures are introduced. The following is a style

of parquetry that is elegant enough for any house, large or small. It is of course more costly than ordinary flooring, but it is not beyond the reach of persons of moderate means, especially if they conclude to economize in the matter of carpets.



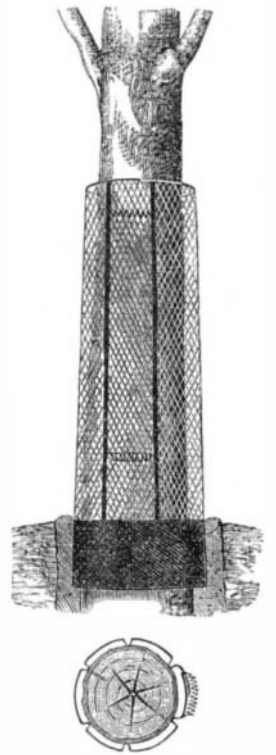
Even this, however, may involve an outlay that some cannot afford, and we accordingly suggest the following as being less expensive, and scarcely less elegant.



This floor may be made either of one wood, or of two kinds—a light and a dark laid alternately. If this is too costly, and a variety is still desired, every alternate board may be stained, so as to look very nearly as well as genuine dark wood. Such a floor as this, smoothly planed and well oiled, is very stylish, and is not difficult to keep clean—indeed, so far as cleanliness is concerned, an uncovered floor has many advantages over a carpeted one. In Europe parquetry floors are polished by being frequently rubbed with wax, and they are much more beautiful when treated in that manner than they are when simply oiled. We need not expect, however, that waxed floors will be common in this country until the servant girl problem is nearer a satisfactory solution than it appears to be at present.—*To-Day*.

**TREE PROTECTOR.**

Mr. Charles Ayers, of Farmington Center, Wis., has recently patented the device shown in our illustration, for protecting the bark of trees against gnawing animals, boring insects, and the worms which climb and destroy leaves and branches. The invention consists in a wrapper of wire gauze or other reticulated substance, provided with ribs inside to rest against the tree, holding it therefrom, so as to allow a space for the circulation of the air. This envelope is made large enough to overlap considerably, so as to allow of the growth of the tree, and is held together by elastic fastenings. The lower end is sunk a few inches into the ground and packed with wood ashes. For a short distance above the surface, a coating of tar or other adhesive material is applied, to which insects will stick fast. Above the tar, the wire is painted to protect it from the weather.



This device will be appreciated by all farmers and nurserymen, to whom the beauty of the foliage of the trees and the immunity from damage of fruit are important considerations. Patented February 11, 1873.

M. ABERLIN, of Stockholm, places children afflicted with capillary bronchitis or croup in small rooms where there are vessels in which water is kept continually boiling. This treatment, it is stated, if prolonged for days or even weeks, eventually produces a cure. The mortality from the disease in Paris, *Les Mondes* says, has been thus reduced from 48 to 18 per cent.

LYE, OIL, and sugar is the latest patented compound to prevent boiler incrustation.