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THE NEW STATE CAPITOL AT HARTFORD, CONN.

It is curious to note how the course of architecture in this country has closely followed the changes in the art developed in Europe and more especially in England. The severe Roman classical style of the last century became supplanted in the Greek revival of 1762, and in both Great Britain and the United States appeared buildings in the main reproductive of ancient Hellenic temples. The British Museum in London, and our own public buildings in Washington, besides numerous custom houses, hotels, and banks, are types of more imposing edifices erected in the Greek style; while scores of wooden country dwellings in almost every village in the Eastern States attest, by their heavy pillars and broad porches, the predilection of architects for its use wherever possible. As the Roman has failed before the Greek, so has the latter in no small measure become less popular than the Gothic, the revival of which style may be fairly dated as of fifty years ago. Fostered by progress in archaeological studies and by ecclesiastical patronage, the mediæval in art grew steadily in favor; and as a result, an almost new order of architecture, the modern secular Gothic, sprang into existence, which, emancipating itself from purely religious application, has reformed the very principles of the original designs. To Ruskin is ascribed this change, and Eastlake says that it was reserved for him "to strike a chord of human sympathy that vibrated through all hearts, and to advocate, independently of considerations which had hitherto only enlisted the sympathy of a few, those principles of mediæval art whose application should be universal."

With this brief review of the origin of the secular Gothic in architecture, we lay before our readers a fine engraving of an edifice which, when completed, will probably be the most prominent and striking example of the style as treated in the United States. It is the State Capitol of Connecticut, and is located in the City Park, a tract of some 40 acres, in the city of Hartford. The site is on elevated ground, is commanding and appropriate, and admirably suited to display the fine design of the structure. The central feature is the dome, which, springing to a height of two hundred and fifty feet above the ground, is surmounted by a colossal female figure, representing Connecticut, holding in her hand the original charter of the State. In common with the entire edifice, the dome is of white marble and richly adorned with arcades, columns, galleries, and with thirteen figures placed one at each terminal at angles, each statue supporting a shield bearing the arms of one of the original States. The dome in plan is a dodecagon 56 feet in diameter, and is flanked by towers 160 feet in height.

The extreme length of the main building is 300 feet and its greatest depth 200 feet. Its construction is of the most substantial description, iron beams and brick arches, and also ground arches in brick filled in, being used throughout. The main entrances are on the north and south fronts, having vestibules, and leading through arcaded openings. In the tympani of the arches over the grand entrance, are five bas-reliefs representing Putnam leaving his plow, and his celebrated horseback ride down the steps, the charter oak, the landing of the pilgrims, and the surrender of Cornwallis. On the

front of the building above the main door are twenty-six niches destined for large statues, and suitable places are provided over all the entrances for the reception of busts of distinguished men. These decorations and the handsome slate roof, together with the general ornate type of the building, will render it, if we may judge from the finished drawings of the elevation, one of the most artistically beautiful structures ever erected. The lower and third floors are devoted to offices and apartments for state and other officials. The second floor contains the Halls of the Senate and Representatives, the Supreme Court, and the Library. The Representatives' Hall is in the central building of the front, is lighted on three sides, and is supported on arcades of polished granite columns, with capitals elegantly carved in marble. The library has two stories of windows, and of alcoves for books.

The main hall, which is approached by all entrances, is tiled and has a stone colonnade, supporting the groined ceiling and floor above. It is well lighted from the doorways and the corridors at each end. There are two grand staircases, entirely of stone and of very massive and beautiful design.

Mr. R. M. Upjohn, of this city, the designer of St. Thomas' Church on Fifth avenue and many other prominent buildings throughout the country, is the architect. He informs us that the ground floor of the structure is now completed and that the entire edifice will require about three years to finish.

GOLD melts at 2,590° Fah.—a little above the melting point of copper.



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