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(COPY.) CHICAGO, APRIL 21st, 1886.

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Will sell Box-Elder seeds at $2.40 per bushel, *Express Paid*, until March 1st—if stock is not exhausted before that date.

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RURAL ARCHITECTURE.

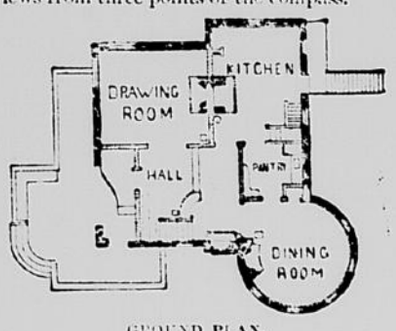
Sketches of Two Picturesque Homes in New Jersey.

Time out of mind the three ground floor requisites of an American house have been kitchen, dining room and parlor. The changes that have been sung on these three essentials to give them variety in shape, arrangement and coloring are infinite.

HOUSE AT ORANGE, N. J.

A pleasant example is the one in the illustration. A striking looking house it is, with its brick walls and Roman tower. If one might venture a criticism, it would be that the tower would have been much more effective if it had been carried a story higher, and the gaunt, factory like chimney beside it been put inside instead of outside. Still it is picturesque as it is with its hint of Rhine castles and dungeon keeps.

A unique feature and the most attractive of all is the round dining room on the ground floor of the tower. It suggests a great round table in the center, like King Arthur's, and romance and legend without end. The windows in this tower dining room command views from three points of the compass.



GROUND PLAN.

Above the dining room, upon the second floor, is a beautiful round tower bedroom. On the second floor there are four rooms and a hall, while the attic furnishes still further accommodations. For a handsome house, built of superior material, the cost of this mansion is not so great, being $5,400. Black mortar is used in the walls. By way of ringing changes within the narrow limits of kitchen, dining room and parlor, this designer has done well.

The original building in New Jersey has brown brick walls mottled through and through with flecks of black. The clay used in making them contained an overplus of iron in streaks. When they came out of the kiln they were brown mottled with black spots. "They will never do," said the brickmaker, and threw them aside as useless. But an architect, with an eye to effects in color, by chance saw them, grasped their possibilities immediately and made a most artistic house wall of them.

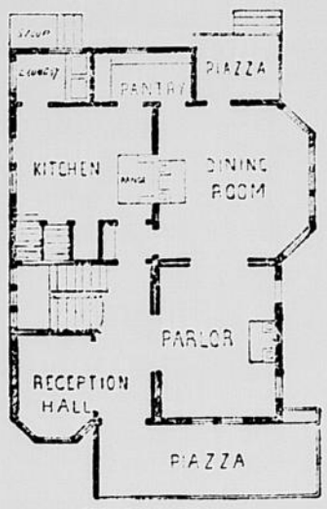
The part of New Jersey next to New York city is dotted all over with beautiful residences. Rich New York men have fled over the border with their money and built them homes, in defiance of musquitos. Musquitos are not so bad as city taxes and enormous prices for land.

COTTAGE AT MONTCLAIR.

Another one of these suburban homes is shown in the wooden cottage given herewith. In the new æsthetics, any house built of wood in a fantastic shape is a cottage.

This house contains seven large rooms on the first and second floors. The third story rooms are pleasant and commodious. The total cost of the house is $4,500. This includes the building of a cistern where it is called for. The cellar walls are of solid stone all the way up, and its floor is thoroughly cemented.

The first floor varies a little from the old plan, in that, in addition to the three rooms so often mentioned, it has a reception hall as one enters off the piazza. In a house where many persons are coming and going this will be a convenience.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

The outside of the house is cut up into patchwork by the introduction of different patterns of weather boarding and paint. This is all the fashion, but it cannot be said to be really ornamental. When the fashion goes by, the patchwork woodwork will not seem a thing of beauty.

Also there is no closet room in the dining room. This, too, may be the fashion, but it is not convenient. There never will be anything prettier than the fine porcelain and glassware which one caught glimpses of in old-time china closets in the dining room.

Every American must rejoice at the improved architecture for homes, which the new time is bringing us. The possibilities of ornamentation in tiling and brick work from our many-colored American clays are only beginning to be understood. We have brown, red and yellow and pale cream brick in exquisite tints, all from the naturally colored clays. Pale cream walls, with red facings and trimmings, or the opposite, would make a beautiful and arsistic home. So would brown and cream tints together.

THE CAUSES AND COST OF SUCH A CONFLICT.

Map of the Rio Grande, Where Lawless Bands Do Congregate—Scenes in El Paso, Texas, and on the Departure of Troops From the City of Mexico.

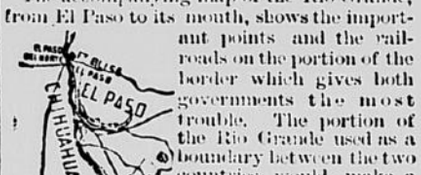
There is blood on the Texan moon and it looks as if somebody was going to be hurt before another full moon comes around. It is all about the slowness with which Mexico proceeds in rectifying the wrongs which have been committed against American citizens.

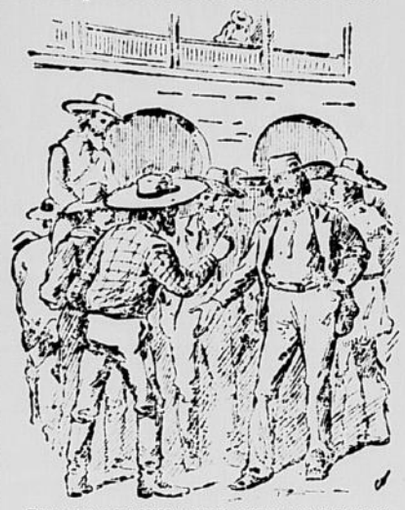
A STREET SCENE IN EL PASO, TEXAS.

In El Paso the excitement is greatest, as it was here that Editor Cutting published the libel against a rival Mexican editor, for which he has since been arrested, tried by a Mexican court and imprisoned. In front of the Central hotel groups of men regularly congregate in the afternoons, and in increased numbers in the evenings, to discuss the situation. In many cases these men come thirty miles to inquire if the war, which they consider inevitable, has yet begun.

Some of them even neglect their crops of onions, cotton, tobacco and fruit, which has been abundant this season, in the idle talk of a raid over Mexican territory. This seems to be the general desire; to make a trip to the city of Mexico, not so much to resent the insult to the American Eagle as to enjoy an excursion at the American government's expense.

The accompanying map of the Rio Grande, from El Paso to its mouth, shows the important points and the railroads on the portion of the border which gives both governments the most trouble. The portion of the Rio Grande used as a boundary between the two countries would make a straight line equal to the distance between the Capitol at Washington and Jefferson City, Mo. While the whole Mexican border would make a straight line extending from Colo. This Washington to Denver, the difficulty of governing the lawless bands which are liable to congregate in a place where they have simply to cross the river to escape punishment for their lawbreaking. Then it must be remembered that the constant fear of revolution in Mexico has driven the government to adopt laws which appear harsh to those who have become accustomed to the freedom permitted on the American side.





TROOPS LEAVING THE CITY OF MEXICO.

One piece of news that has helped to further inflame matters is the fact that troops are on the way from the City of Mexico for duty on the border. And there is no concealing the fact that the American government through the movement of its war vessels and the bustle among its troops is preparing for trouble on the border. On both sides these precautions are being taken none too soon to preserve order. For it is unlikely that the present temper of the people will subside until there is blood shed, even through insurrection.

Mexico contains at the present time a population of 11,000,000. In case of war 500,000 men could be obtained for service, but the wherewith to equip them could not be so easily had, as Mexico's credit stands about the lowest among the list of nations, unless there was a possibility of her doing the United States some injury, when English capital would flow freely to the Mexican treasury, but at an exorbitant rate of interest, of course, on account of the danger of repudiation.

Wars cost money, and millions and millions more than they used to. In 1846-8 the United States overran Mexico at a total cost of something over $100,000,000. To do the same thing now would cost at least $500,000,000. Is the game worth the candle?

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