

COUNTRY CLUB'S HOME.

THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN OUT SHARES.

A PRETTY WOODLAND LAKE

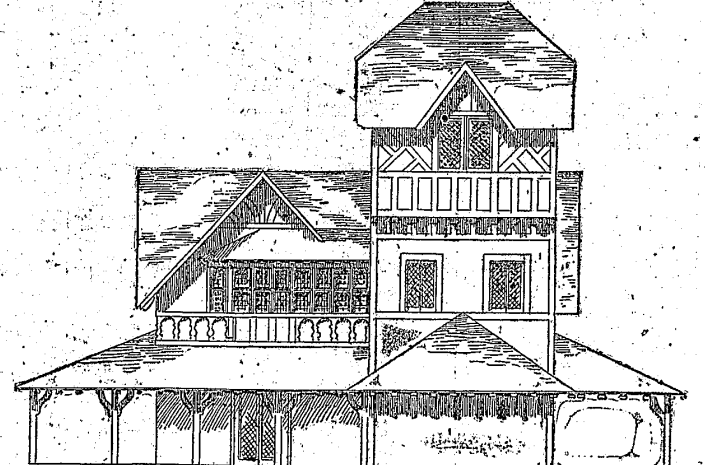
WHERE SKATING, CARNIVALS, SWIMMING AND BOATING WILL HOLD FORTH—BEAUTIFUL NATURAL SURROUNDINGS.

Two years ago the members of the Albany Country Club realized that they had outgrown their present accommodations, and determined to set to work to find a place more suitable for their requirements. The president and executive committee were appointed to investigate the subject, and at the same time rigid economy of expenditures was instituted in order that a building fund might be started. So well was this latter project carried out that in the two succeeding years

"The Knowles Farm," on the Western turnpike, was chosen. At this meeting the committee on incorporation and drafting of the constitution were also appointed. Several plans of incorporation were discussed and that one was chosen which seemed the least cumbersome and which afforded the greatest protection to the members who invested their money in the enterprise. Selecting Plans. When the committee had proceeded thus far, invitations were sent to every architect in Albany, asking them to compete for the plans of the house, and applications were also received from architects in Buffalo and New York. They represented many types of house suitable for the intended use. These plans were examined by the executive committee and also by many other members of the club, and those of Marcus C. Reynolds, of this city, were unanimously selected as meeting with their ideas, and his estimate also came within their limit. Contractors were selected and are now figuring upon the cost of changing one of the farms on the Western turnpike to conform with the architect's plans, which will make it so different from what it

which enjoys nothing better than a lake of this nature. Dinners or light suppers can be provided afterwards in the house, and then the neighborhood home will suffice to make an evening a delightful one. To secure the best of skating, pipes will be laid, this fall along the edge of the lake, so that if snow occurs or the ice gets coarse, the surface can be flooded and again allowed to freeze smooth. This pond is of about the same width as the park-like, winding about circuitously through the woods between the steep, high banks. It is much more picturesque than the latter, and when the dam is constructed its depth will be about twelve feet. Its entire length will be inside the club's land, and its extensive property, which includes eighty-six acres. Glimpse at the House. The plans for the club-house were completed first previous to the sailing of architect Reynolds for Europe on July 14th and an examination of them shows that the club will possess most admirable quarters. The building is two stories in height and will be made in the half-Timbered style, as shown in the pictures. A broad covered piazza sixty feet in

door sports to please both the player and the looker on. Stables will be necessary to shelter the vehicles and horses and these will be excellent for their appointments. Kennels to keep the pack and private dogs will be built and placed out in the woods so that following the usual will add another feature to the long list of sports. Many of the more enthusiastic riders are considering the advisability of introducing polo. If this interesting sport is brought to Albany, a beautiful large meadow can be placed at the disposal of the members, and of ample size to allow of the regulation sized field. That this means a broad expanse to run over is shown by the fact that there are only one or two sporting clubs in the country that have level fields large enough for the regulation size course. As a Corporation. Up to this time the club had not been incorporated under the State laws, and steps were at once taken to have this done. Counselor James F. Tracey, a member of the club, agreed to do this and drew the paper up in proper form only a week ago. The certificate states that the object is the "maintenance of a club for social, athletic, hunting, fishing and lawful sporting purposes, in Albany county, including the acquiring and holding of such property as may be conducive to that end." The subscribers to the document were Howard Van Rensselaer, Robert C. Pruyn, Grange Sarg, Abraham Lansing, Dean Sage, Henry A. Packham and George Douglas Miller, who are also named as trustees for its first year. The trustees at their first meeting elected as officers: President, Howard Van Rensselaer; secretary and treasurer, Miss Mabel Learned. The Club's Policy. It was agreed that the club should continue to be conducted in the same conservative course which had characterized its success in the past. To provide against running into debt it was resolved at a meeting recently held that a committee of the president and Mr. Lansing is hereby authorized to lay out, contract for and carry on the improvements to the club property which may be required to make it suitable for occupation by the club, as soon as possession of such property shall have been acquired; provided, however, that they shall not, at any time either expend or contract for the expenditure of any sum in excess of the money on hand, received from other sources than the subscription to the club fund, until such time as such subscription shall exceed the amount required to pay in full the purchase price of the Knowles property, when they may so expend any such excess, but the subscription fund shall at all times be kept intact to the extent of such purchase price without to meet the same. This same idea of making the club conservative in money matters was thoughtfully carried out in making its membership exclusive, and it was determined to limit it to those who are Reducing the membership is therefore a guarantee of the intention to make of it a select gathering and when the club list is completed it will be as great a thing in itself as the Albany to be counted in the "One Hundred" as New Yorkers consider it to get into the pale of the "Aristocracy." The List. It is regretted by those most interested in seeing the plans carried out, that many of the members of the club left the city for the summer before they could be seen by the committee, so that but a portion of the club has been asked as yet to subscribe. But all those who were seen were enthusiastic on the subject, and over eleven thousand dollars were raised. Should the remaining subscribers next month also work up to the mark, the club house will proceed at once, and there is little doubt that this will be the case as every one seems anxious to own one share. If they do not take from three to five shares, the shares have been taken by these persons: Abraham Lansing, Dudley Olcott, Dean Sage, Grange Sarg, Howard Van Rensselaer, Anthony Van Brady, Robert C. Pruyn and Mrs. John V. L. Pruyn. The following have taken three shares each: Benjamin W. Arnold, A. Buecker Banks, E. A. Durant, Jr., Howard King, William L. Learned, P. J. H. Merrill, E. W. Murphy, John D. Parsons, Jr., John H. Van Alstyne, George Douglas Miller, and Mrs. James Kidd. The owners of two shares each are: William Bayard Van Rensselaer, Albert Vander Veer, O. P. Liscomb, Mrs. William G. Rice and Mrs. Daniel Manning. Those who have bought single shares are: Lewis Balch, William Barnes, Jr., Edwin C. Baxter, Edward Bowditch, James F. Boyd, James Fenimore Cooper, Frederick J. Cox, Harry C. Cushman, J. Newton Fiero, Frederick Hart, J. Townsend Leonard, Cyrus S. Marvin, William McNaughton, Cyrus S. Parker, Jr., Henry J. Neils, Amasa J. Ward, T. Reed, William G. Rice, Frederick Townsend, James Tracey, Frederick B. Wadhams, Samuel B. Ward, Horace G. Young, Mrs. Harmon E. Ford, Miss Mabel Learned, Miss Grace Learned, Miss Abby Lansing, Mrs. O. M. Benedict.

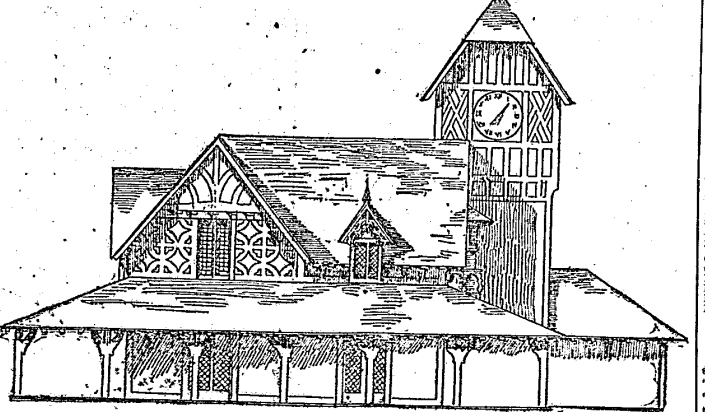


Front Elevation of the New Country Club House.

is now that the old house will scarcely be recognizable. The new Country Club's place will be reached by a drive out any of the city's streets reaching the Great Western turnpike, or, as it is generally called, the "road to Sloan's." It can also be reached by cross drives, winding through the country, so that the way there will not become monotonous, and it can also be reached directly from the sand plains. From the turnpike road a turn is made to the right through the fine avenue of oaks, the club's property. Again a slight turn to the west, and one will come into view of the club house, which is a high shade tree about, and as one comes into sight of the building the scene is picturesque. The site selected by the club embraces nearly all the requirements of its members. It has a rear lawn on sand plains, and its front extends a long distance on the Western turnpike. It has a good avenue of trees extending from the road a quarter of a mile back to the house, and its situation, though retired, is by no means lonesome. The front piazza there is a wide prospect, embracing the fields, meadows and the peaks of the Catskills, while in the foreground are broad meadows, gently sloping on all sides. In the rear is a particularly pleasant

length on each of two sides, and somewhat shorter on the remaining two sides of the house is planned so that there will be no question of finding a cool shady spot. The entrance will be from the south, and on going in the front door one will be in a broad hall with a large fire place occupying nearly one side, which will allow the winter air to be blown in, and a burning of five foot logs. At the other side, a wide door will open into a reception room. Its dimensions are feet by 32 feet will be sufficiently commodious to use it as a ball-room in the winter and this is to be one of the particular functions of the club. The walls will be tinted and the floors will be of wood. Conveniences in the way of dressing, and smoking rooms will be provided up the stairs. The brick work, the plaster will be stained dark brown; the brown and the roof shingles stained a dull red. The tower, considerably higher than the building, will serve a double purpose, that of adding to the pretty appearance of the house and providing a means of storing water for daily consumption and in case of fire. It will be filled by the water forced into the tank by an automatic ram, and it will allow a number of the water to be used both hot and cold water being provided.

one thousand dollars were saved and deposited in the savings bank. The same measure of success did not, however, attend the investigating committee, as after repeated and earnest endeavors, they were obliged to report that the difficulties being many, their efforts were as yet fruitless. The first hindrance that opposed them was the farmers, they later learning of the intended move, thought that the opportunities of their lives to make a fortune out of the city folk had arrived, and in consequence up went the prices of their land, and their negotiations were so exorbitant that their demands could not for a moment, be entertained by the committee. A still greater difficulty lay with the members of the club, as there were so many different elements in a club of one hundred members that had to be taken into consideration, that it was soon evident that it was impossible to please every one. The riding members were clamorous for a site on their beloved sand plains, many of them who have absolutely refused to join a club on these same wastes of sand, as it made too heavy a drawing for their horses, and besides, rubbed all the paint off their own horses. Those who did not own horses wanted a place within easy walking distance of the electric cars. The bicyclists demanded a smooth, good road



Side Elevation of the New Country Club House.

up to the very door of the club house, and every one wished for spacious grounds, a beautiful broad shaded avenue of approach, extensive views embracing the Heights, that they could overlook some water, which they could control and utilize for rowing and skating. There, many of them had picked out their own favorite spots and looked askance at all other situations. Nothing daunted by the unfavorable report of the club, at its last annual meeting, reappointed the committee. These members, with renewed energy, probed the search thoroughly, gradually increasing their investigations, the distance from the sand plains. Every place in the area suggested by any member of the club was immediately scrutinized, and its merits and disadvantages carefully canvassed. Independently of this, nearly every spot of land within a radius of four miles of Albany, that seemed to offer any advantage, was visited and surveys obtained of the more favorably situated ones. The same improvements as in the previous year were executed, but patients selected systematic work gradually told, and the vehicle narrowed down to two. Here a meeting held at the residence of Mrs. J. V. L. Pruyn in June, the site known as "Woodland," or

effect. It is a magnificent grove of white pines, called the "Cathedral," the most beautiful grove of white pines about Albany. An excellent feature of this spot is the elevation offered for the main road, not to be seen from here on account of the distance and intervening trees and hillsides. Here, on bright summer afternoons, will, in the future, be seen jolly groups of people, sitting in the shade under the tall pines, with the sunlight glinting in the leaves, and the breeze forming an ever-changing pattern of light and shadow on the pine-needle covered ground, taking of these the favorable but delightful afternoon tea. A Woodland Lake. What places a majority of the members in a pond, fed by a number of unyielding springs of the finest cold water; this in a forest of tall pines. Birch bark canoes, paddle boats and row boats will be placed on the water this fall, and not only will members have the enjoyment of boating, but the pond will be a place for skating will be a special attraction, and a central on the ice with lamp-back to decrease noise, will make a decked promenade for Albany's social set.

On the faces of the tower will be a sun dial, and the time of day will be told in the old fashioned way. The pleasures of belonging to the club will not be confined to simply driving out there in order to meet one's friends over a cup of tea, nor to the "boating, canoeing, skating and dancing; but there will be provided other sports which of themselves from a sufficient excuse for the formation of the club. It is proposed to provide a race course on the grounds where running, trotting, stumping and hurdle contests may take place. It will be one half mile in length and oval in its shape and 32 feet wide. The members may easily view the races. The game of golf will be a new feature to the list of sports. It is played by two, four, six or eight people at a time and is a good exhilarating sport, interesting both for men and women. Watching the golf players will be an interesting and a course of several paper kind of land which that sport. Then there will be archery, clay pigeon shooting and a number of out-

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