

*This article is from the September 30, 1885 issue of The Adrian Daily Times and Expositor:*

## The Court House.

Lenawee's New Temple of Justice Near Completion.

A Pen and Pencil Illustration of the Magnificent Building.

A Description of Its Present Exterior and Interior Appearance.

Elegance and Simplicity—Comfort and Safety—A Model Court House.

A Structure of which the People of the County May Well be Pleased.

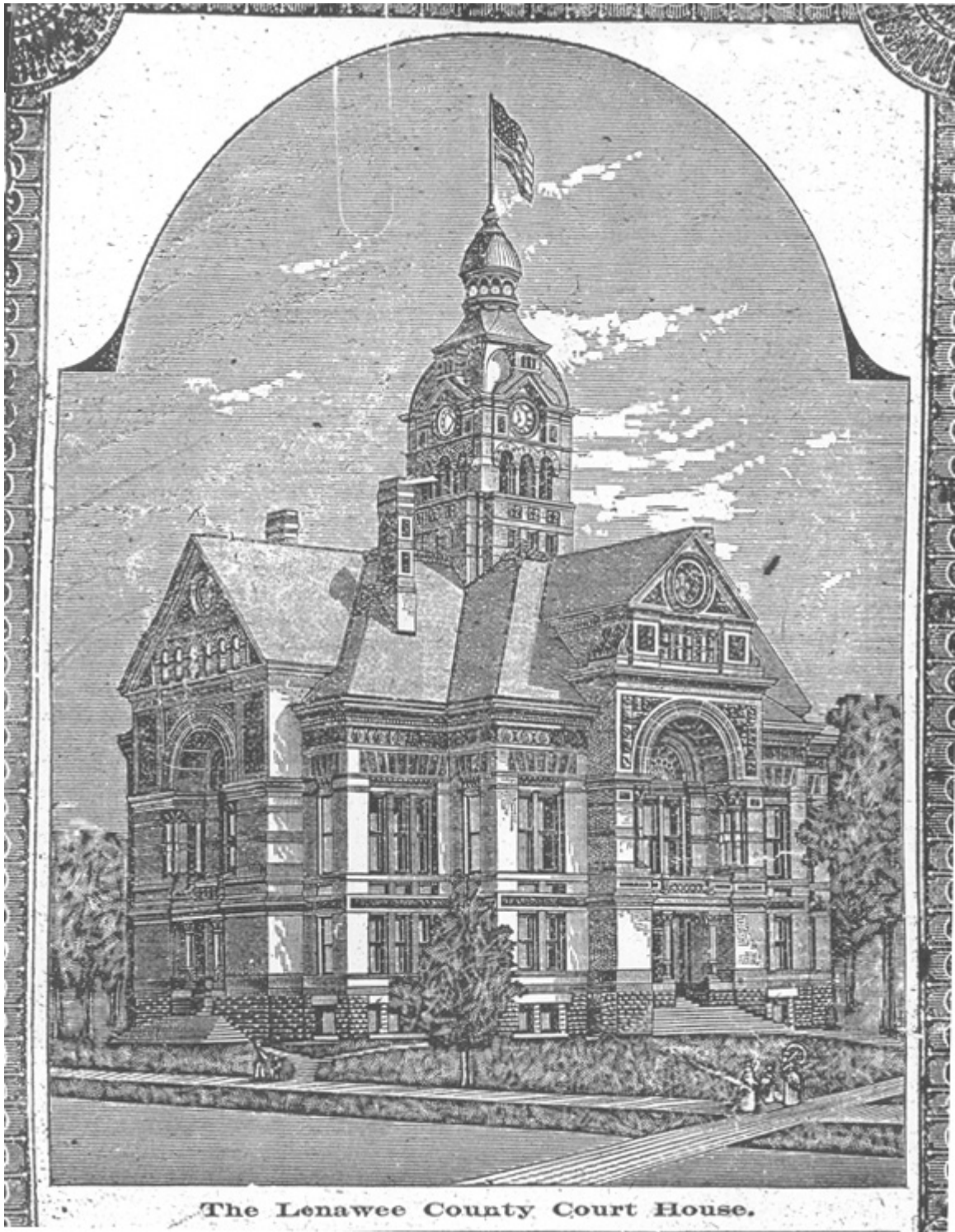
The Decoration, Heating and Ventilation, and other Details.

“The new court house!” For the past two years this has been a common phrase in Lenawee county. As the weary mariner, long buffeted by wind and wave, looks forward to relief and rest, or as the traveler across the desert anticipates a delicious draught of cool, clear water, so may the people, and particularly the officials, of the richest agricultural county in the union, be said to have waited for the erection of this temple of justice. From the day the electors of the county announced by the ballot that they were willing to pay the necessary cost of a suitable structure. For the accommodation of the officers of the county, there has been a deep public interest in the enterprise; an interest which was first strongly demonstrated when a corner-stone was laid, by the presence of a multitude of people. Since that time every day has witnessed the inspection of the work by citizens from various parts of the county. Now the Mecca is almost reached, and a few weeks, at most, will see the circuit judge, and his fellow servants of the people, installed in a home in keeping with the dignity of the positions they hold, and, at the same time, the valuable public records of the county will find a haven reasonably secure from the destructiveness of the elements and the hand of the criminal. “’Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished,” and there can be no person who does not feel satisfaction that the result is as it is.

We are pleased to be able to present, with the verbal sketch of our new county building, a fine cut [engraving] thereof, which gives a better impression of its appearance than can columns of mere description. This cut was prepared expressly for *The Times* by Calvert lithograph company of Detroit, and, as our readers can perceive, is a fine work of art.

### **A Bit of History**

will not be inappropriate at this juncture: Lenawee county was laid out in 1822, but was attached to Monroe county. The first settlers in the county were Musgrove Evans, Gen. J. W. Brown, E. F. Blood, Turner Stetsen, Nathan Rathbone and Peter Lowry, who took up their residence on the land now occupied by the Globe mills, at Tecumseh. The land surrounding them was soon entered by speculators, and, settlers having accumulated in sufficient numbers, the necessary preliminaries were taken for the establishment of a



county seat. By act of legislature it was placed at Tecumseh, in June, 1824. A court house and log jail were built, and all the county offices were located at Tecumseh until 1835-6, when the central and southern parts of the county having become somewhat settled, it was deemed expedient to remove the county seat to a more central location. The removal to this city did not, however, actually take place until the first Monday in

November, 1838. A jail had meanwhile been constructed here, and in 1839 a court house was erected, the land for the purpose being donated by Addison J. Comstock.

The court house of Lenawee county was destroyed by fire on the morning of March 14, 1852, and the records of the county clerk's office were entirely consumed. The records of the other office were saved, with the exception of a few books and papers. The old court house was located on the lot in the city of Adrian, bound north by Front street, east by Locust street.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, A. D., 1852, the following communication was laid before the board of supervisors of Lenawee county, viz:

“Adrian, May 10, 1852

*“To the Board of Supervisors of Lenawee County:*

“We, the undersigned, propose to give to Lenawee county the ground situated between Main and Winter streets, and Front and Railroad streets provided your board will erect thereon the court house and other public buildings.

Henry Hart,  
Robert Parker,  
P. Stone,  
J. Cross,  
Isaac French,  
D. S. Wilkinson.”

This proposition was afterward, and on May 13, 1852, modified, the gentlemen named in the above communication offering to donate the lot in question, with the simple proviso, that the county should erect thereon the county offices.

Various other propositions were made to the board, but after considerable discussion, as appears by the records, the offer above given was accepted by the board, by a vote of: yeas, 14; nays, 4, and the said board, on June 16, 1862, by a vote of 14 yeas and 5 nays, established as the court house site the property described above.

The board, through its committee, appointed for that purpose, thereupon commenced the erection of a building for the accommodation of county offices, the contract for the construction being let to James Berry, Esq., of Adrian. Offices were provided in this building for the judge of probate, register of deeds, county treasurer and county clerk.

The sessions of the circuit court were held in what was known as Odd Fellows hall until 1865. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, in that year, the following proposition was presented to the board:

*“To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Lenawee County:*

“The trustees of the M. E. church, in the city of Adrian, will rent to the county the brick church on Toledo street, for the use of the circuit and chancery court board of supervisors, agreeing to make all necessary and needful repairs and changes for their accommodation, and furnish gas for lights, and stoves and pipes. Terms, \$300. Jury rooms included. (Signed.)

T. D. Ramsdell, Chairman,  
Per F. J. Hough.”

This proposition was accepted and the “brick church” on Toledo street became the temporary court house of the county, and has been used for that purpose until the present time. In the year 1873 this property passed into the hands of A. J. Dean, Esq., was thoroughly repaired, and has been enlarged and beautified from time to time, until it is now a very convenient and pleasant court room.

#### The New Court House.

Since the destruction of the old court house in 1852, the proposition to raise by tax a fund to build a new structure has been several times submitted to the people, but was each time defeated, until on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, A. D. 1882, a proposition was carried at the general election then held, to raise \$50,000 to build a court house. There were 7,555 votes cast, of which 5,082 were for the proposition, and 2,473 were against it.

In October, 1883, a building committee consisting of Ira Swaney, Hudson; Alfred James, Tecumseh; Thomas M. Hunter, Adrian city; Horace Holdredge, Raisin; William M. Corbet, Blissfield, was chosen by the board to carry out the will of the people. Plans and specifications prepared by E. O. Fallis & Co., Toledo, O., were adopted, and on April 2, 1884, a contract was entered into with Allen & Van Tassel, of Ionia, Mich., for the construction of the building for \$47, 460. Work was at once commenced, and had so far progressed on June 28, 1884, as to permit the laying of the corner stone.

The corner-stone, a handsome piece of polished Quincy granite, was donated by the citizens of Adrian, and was laid in the presence of a large audience, by Hon. Andrew Howell, circuit judge; the oration on the occasion was delivered by Hon. Thos. M. Cooley, of Ann Arbor, then chief justice of the supreme court of the state; an address was also made by Hon. Norman Geddes, judge probate.

Within the corner-stone was placed a hermetically sealed metal case, containing the following articles:

#### Contents of the Corner Stone.

1. Historical sketch of the public schools of the city of Adrian, compiled by Prof. William H. Payne.
2. Early history of Lenawee county, and of the city of Adrian, by Hon. A. L. Millard.
3. Pamphlet and papers relating to the public schools of the city of Adrian
4. Address on Michigan pioneers, by F. A. Dewey, of Cambridge.
5. Proceedings of the Lenawee county board of supervisors, 1883-1884.
6. List of county and township officers of Lenawee county prepared by County Clerk T. M. Hunter.
7. History of the church of Christ, Ridgeway.
8. Roster of Scott post, No. 45, G. A. R., Blissfield.
9. Roster of Blissfield lodge, No. 114, F. and A. M.
10. General laws of the grand lodge I. O. O. F., Michigan.
11. List of officers and members, Blissfield lodge, No. 258, I. O. O. F.
12. Calendar of circuit court of Lenawee county.
13. Historical sketch of Woodbury post, No. 45, department of Michigan, G. A. R.
14. Department of Michigan, G. A. R., roster.

15. Copies of newspapers of county of current issue, vis: Adrian Times, daily and weekly, Adrian Press, Adrian Record, Union Light, Judson Post, Hudson Gazette, Morenci Observer, Deerfield Record, Tecumseh News, Tecumseh Herald, Blissfield Advance, Educational News.
16. Copy of charter and ordinances of city of Adrian.
17. Personal sketch, stenographic and type writing data by G. W. Larwill, circuit court stenographer.
18. Copies of Tecumseh Democrat of January 1, 1836; of Tecumseh Village Record of December 17, 1839; of Tecumseh Herald of July 24, 1851, from S. C. Stacy, Tecumseh.
19. Calendar of Adrian college.
20. Photograph of hairless calf.
21. Statement in regard to the county treasurer's office, by Jay Hoag, county treasurer.
22. Programme of exercises at the laying of the corner stone.
23. List of subscribers to the fund for laying of corner stone.
24. Sketch of the old county court house and historical record by County Clerk Hunter.
25. Sketch and statistics of the probate court by Hon. Norman Geddes, judge of probate.
26. Dictionary of the village of Tecumseh, 1883.

Owing to reasons which have been stated in these columns, and which we deem it unnecessary to repeat, the contractors on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1884, made an assignment to Knapp, Avery & Co., their bondmen, who at once assumed control of the work and with great energy and thoroughness, as the work indicates, have pushed it to what we may now safely say, a successful completion. Upon the assignment above referred to, a question of some interest in view of a recent act of the legislature arose. The contract made provision for payment to the contractors upon the monthly estimate of the architect, providing however, there were no legal or lawful claims for labor or material against the contractor, in which case there was to be no payment. The original contractors had left unpaid debts to the amount of about seven thousand dollars. As the work progressed under charge of the assignees, the building committee refused to pay under the contract until all past claims were satisfied. Proceeding in the supreme court by mandamus were instituted to compel payment, the assignees being advised that the provision in the contract was exacted by the committee without authority, in legal parlance, that the same was *ultra vires*. The question was ably presented to the court by the attorneys Bean, Underwood & Lane for Knapp, Avery & Co., and A. L. Millard Esq, and L. H. Salsbury, Esq., for the building committee. The court decided, in substance, that while the clause referred to could not be by the county made the subject of an independent contract for the construction of a proper county building, the committee had very properly seen to it that the interests of laborers and material men should be look after. Messrs. Knapp & Avery promptly paid all the indebtedness of Allen & VanTassel, and have spared no pains to have the work substantially and satisfactorily completed, Mr. A. E. Avery being on the ground personally most of the time—and as all who know him will testify, “he’s a hustler.”

## The Building

Public interest being rife and the people having a right to know how their work is being carried on, a description, more or less perfect of the court house as it now stands, will be of undoubted interest. Standing as it does upon the beautiful plat of land bounded by Main, Railroad, Winter and Front street, but two short blocks from the heart of the city, it at once forms a point of interest to all residents of the county, and is especially an ornament to that portion of the city.

The building faces Main street, and from that thoroughfare it is most natural to approach it, although massive and handsome entrances, scarcely if any inferior to that on Main street, face Railroad and Front street. Broad stairs assist the visitor at either entrance to rise to the first floor. In front lies a space 120 by 148 feet in size which is to be converted into a beautiful lawn, and which is the greater portion of what is left, by the building, of the block of about 150 by 300 feet upon which it stands. The building, over all, measures 134 by 108 feet, while the height from the ground to the top of the tower is 132 feet. The tower is surmounted by a flag staff 21 feet high, from which the stars and stripes may daily be seen to float. The plan of the building is original throughout, so that it conforms to no particular style of architecture, although its general characteristics are such that it may be said to incline to the Romanesque. It is certain that it bears none of the orthodox court house earmarks. The building has four gables, extending toward the points of the compass as nearly as the situation allows, thus giving it a "hip" roof, while the juncture of roof angles in the middle of the building rises the tower. The combination thus created is very graceful in outline. Viewing the structure from Main street, the eye rests first upon some six feet of Montclove (sic) stone, which is that part of the foundation which rises above the surrounding surface. The foundation is covered with a line of Michigan sandstone, quarried at Sony Point. The stone is handsome, being of a uniform shade throughout. Above the stone commences the brick work, of which the walls proper are constructed. Zanesville, O., pressed brick are used, the brick being laid in which mortar. The brick are of a uniform color, and they give the structure a finished appearance. As the survey continues upward the eye takes in the first floor line of windows, surmounted by another line of cut stone, with a panel of glazed tile placed in a strung course around the building. Another line of stone comes beneath the second floor windows, while connected with the stone are panels of terra cotta. Above these windows are two elaborate layers of sand stone, while still higher is the terra cotta frieze, the design of which, mapped out in squared, is alternately a flaming torch, representing Justice, and an upraised hand, indicating Mercy. Above the frieze, is the heavy galvanized iron cornice, painted in imitation of the sandstone.

### The Gables.

Of the four gables of the court house, that facing Main street, is perhaps, the most elaborate, although it is scarcely less beautiful in design than either of the others. In the summit of the gable is a circular, stone-encased window, flanked on either side by the American eagle in terra cotta. Below, on the left, is a representation of ancient armor in the same material, and on the right is a figure representing the agricultural pursuits, viz.: corn, a sickle, fork, etc. Lower still are other figures, representing law, liberty, justice, etc, in terra cotta. Just beneath these figures stands the great stone archway over the entrances. The archway, which is very massive, is a feature of each of the entrances, and is, in fact, a central idea from which the plan of the court house was evolved. The arches

are supported by gray, Fox Island, polished granite columns. The side gables are also marked, near the apex, by circular windows, below which are a line of windows divided by supporting cylindrical stone columns. Opposite the main arch, on either side, are figures in terra cotta, representing, respectively, Tecumseh, the celebrated Indian chief, and the Goddess of Agriculture. Having thus given a cursory view of the exterior appearance of the walls, it will be proper to lead the reader to

#### **The Basement.**

The basement may be easily reached by passing down either of two flights of stairs which may be found at the sides of the front, or Main street, entrance. The steps are of stone, and are guarded by iron railing. At the bottom one reaches a solid floor of Portland cement, while as the visitor penetrates into the various apartments, he finds on all sides heavy abutments of stone, so thick and strong as to be apparently capable of withstanding any strain. The surrounding naturally create a desire to examine

#### **The Foundations**

of the building. An analysis by an expert would show that the walls rested upon concrete footings. These footings are eight inches thick, the concrete being composed of water lime, sand, gravel and broken stone. Slow setting cement was used. The process by which the footings were made is somewhat interesting. The sand and gravel were well washed, and the stone broken in pieces not exceeding two inches in diameter. The broken stone and gravel were spread upon a level floor, the gravel on the bottom, when men with hoes mixed it thoroughly together. This mixture was deposited in the trenches to the required depth of eight inches, and well rammed down. Above the footings the outside basement walls are of stone above the grade line being quarry faced range work with pitched joints and all arrises (sic) having a two inch margin. The stone is laid in courses, all joints being well broken, while the walls are laid to a line inside and out. The walls above the earth are laid in quick lime mortar. Over all openings in the walls arches have been turned and stone grouted in. The outside, or foundation walls are two and one-half feet through, while the interior basement walls are two feet thick. In the center of the basement is the foundation of the tower, which is a solid and nearly independent structure from top to bottom.

#### **The Inside Finish.**

To move upstairs, the inside work of the building is of Georgia yellow pine, selected. The grain of the wood is beautiful, and the work, under the supervision of C. J. Moltby, of Hillsdale, representing W. H. Meyers & Son, the sub contractors, shows to excellent advantage. Mr. Moltby has had charge of the entire inside work, and has shown himself to be entirely competent for this responsibility. The wood-work has been finished with one coat of filler, one coat of shellac, sand-papered, puttied, one coat of rubbing varnish, sand-papered, and flowed with one coat of coach varnish.

#### **Floors.**

The floors (except in corridors and fire-proof rooms), are of double thickness, the first of common pine, the finishing floors of Georgia yellow pine, finished with two coats of raw linseed oil.

#### **Wainscoting.**

The wainscoting throughout is of Georgia yellow pine. The corridors are wainscoted three feet with one-inch stuff, three inches wide, with moulded base. The

wainscoting in court-room, supervisors' room, and water closets is the same, but six inches higher.

#### Hardware, Etc.

The locks on outside doors are real bronze, of a beautiful pattern, with bronze face, and trimmings the same. Locks for all inside doors have brace face and bolts, with master keys for all. Knobs are of hemacite (sic), with bronze trimmings; inside doors are hung on Berlin bronze butts. Windows are to have Morris's patent sash locks.

#### The Glass.

Double strength American sheet glass is used in outside windows throughout the building. Skylights are hammered glass. Transom lights and lights over wall-holes in tower are of ground plate glass.

#### Tiling.

Corridors on first floor are of encaustic tile of elegant and original pattern in geometrical designs, cut into patters with borders and center pieces, laid in Portland cement. This work is done by the U. S. encaustic tile company of Indianapolis, Ind., and makes an elegant substantial floor.

### **The First Floor.**

#### The Registrar's Office.

Entering the building from Main street the first door to the left leads to the fire-proof apartment of the registrar of deeds, 26 feet 2 inches by 19 feet 10 inches in size. This rooms (sic) seems to fill all the requirements. Jack arches, bound by iron girders, secure the ceiling, while iron tie-beams and shutters of the same material enhance the general security. The doors are double, and of steel, of Diebold's make, with combination locks and four bots. To the south is the register's private office, which is a large, square, well lighted apartment of 23 by 16 feet, furnished with mantel, grate, cloak room, closet, wash room, etc. Moving west across the north and south hall, the private office of

#### The County Clerk

is reached. It is a room most respects similar to the private office of the register, being the same size as that apartment, and having all the accoutrements. In addition it has the private stairway to the court room which debarks upon the landing in front of the judge's private office on the floor above. The clerk's business office is just to the northwest of his private room, and it is a spacious and attractive apartment of 29 ft. 6 in. by 25 feet. On the east side double doors, fire proof and burglar puzzling, and fitted with combination locks, lead to the vault 12 by 20 ft. 6 in. square. The vault is well ventilated. The ceiling is arched and then covered with heavy, seasoned oak timbers as a protection to the vault from falling debris in case of fire. The floor of the vault is made of Bedford limestone. A speaking tube also connects the business office with the court room above.

#### The Probate Office.

Proceeding to the northwest corner of the building, there may be found the apartments of the judge of probate, which consist of a large and airy court room of 29 ft. 6 in. by 25 feet, a private office 16 by 23 feet, and closets, wash room, vaults, etc. The court room has a seating capacity of about 100.



### The County Treasurer.

Crossing the north and south hall to the east, the visitor will arrive at the quarters of the county treasurer, the last suite of apartments in the circuit of this floor. The treasurer's business office is 22 by 16 feet in size, and, among other features it has a fire proof vault with all features, it has a fire-proof vault, will all the trimmings of the other vaults, 20 ft. 6 in. by 9 ft. in dimensions. The private office, which also has mantels, grate, etc., is 23 by 16 feet large. The ceilings of all apartments on the first floor are of the same height, 13 ft. 1 in., while the ceilings of the halls on this floor are two inches higher. In moving from the treasurer's "front door," you reach that point in the hall from which you stepped in entering the register's fire-proof room, at the beginning of the tour of this floor.

### The Second Floor.

#### The Court Room.

Ascending the handsome grand stairway, we come to the court-room floor. There are two entrances to the court room, one for the general public, on the north side, and one for the bar on the south side. Entering, we find what we believe to be the handsomest court room in the state. The room is 40 feet 4 inches wide, by 60 feet 8 inches in length, ceiling 23 feet 2 inches high. The furniture and seating is described elsewhere. A handsome carved railing of cherry will separate the department designed for the use of the court, the bar, jury, clerk, stenographer, witnesses and defendants, from the auditorium proper. The judge's seat will be on a platform 16 inches from the floor, while the clerk will occupy a desk eight inches lower. The stenographer and witness will occupy a position on a level with the clerk. The jury box is about twenty feet long and eight feet wide, the first row of chairs being raised eight inches from the floor, and the back row sixteen inches. The jury are (sic) to the left of the judge, the bar, of course, being directly in front. On the right of the judge is a rail behind which prisoners will be confined while in court.

The room will be well heated by means of steam radiators, which are placed in almost every nook and corner. A large ventilator will convey fresh air into the room by means of registers, scattered about in out of the way places, so as not to cause inconvenience. The room is light and airy, and the acoustic qualities are excellent.

The Georgia yellow pine, especially in the wainscoting, shows to excellent advantage. The doors of white pine swing noiselessly. The rooms will be lighted by two ten-light chandeliers from the ceiling, and by three standard lights inside the bar. But the most pleasing feature of the court room is

#### The Frescoing,

and it is a feature, too, which as will be readily apprehended, is very difficult to fitly describe. This, like all works of art, must need to be seen to be fully appreciated. The artist, Romeo Berra, of Toledo, Ohio, has not only brought to this work the experience of many years, but has thrown into it what only an artist can, his love of the work itself, for itself, that has given to it the touch and the finish that no words can describe. Therefore, we shall attempt only a general description of the work, advising our readers, that, when opportunity offers, they see for themselves, as the effects produced are well worth studying. The ancient, the medieval and the modern are depicted. The Goddess of Justice adorns the ceiling directly above the bench. The goddess, as usual, is in charge of

the evenly balanced scales. It's a way the goddess has. She couldn't keep house without the scales. The implements of warfare are buried beneath the branches emblematic of peace. The light and shade in this piece, as indeed in all the work, is excellent. At the opposite end of the room is a painting of the Goddess of Plenty, with the well filled cornucopia of fruits and flowers and cereals, a most fitting representative of our thriving agricultural commonwealth. The center piece is a sky and balustrade; here the artist has accomplished a beautiful effect, the rays of the setting sun, the light clouds, the shadows, all combining to make the most beautiful scene. On the one side of the center piece is the American eagle in the full pride and glory—evidently of a political campaign in full blast—erect, noble, ready to screech (the returns haven't come in yet); the flags of war are buried beneath the national shield, upon which the eagle is standing guard; on the other side is a most excellent representation of the seal or coat of arms of Michigan. These companion pieces are among the best of the effects produced. Ancient and modern armor, an Indian head, with the bow and arrow, complete the panels. A terra cotta frieze surrounds the room, with a handsome, artistic border above. The walls are painted a greenish tint, and the whole effect of the artist's work is pleasing in the extreme. Directly off the court room passing the landing of the stairway from the clerk's office, is

#### The Judge's Private Office,

a large office, well lighted by three windows, with a recess in which is a handsome, cheery, marbleized slate mantel. A water closet and washroom complete the conveniences of the apartment. There is entrance to this office directly<sup>6</sup> from the court room, and also from the main hall outside.

#### Consultation Room.

In the rear of the court room is a law library, consultation and cloak room. This room is so located that consultations here will not disturb the business of the court. There is a wash-room off, and a door leads into the main hall.

#### Witness Room.

At either end of the hall is a witness room. The one at the south end for the convenience of women in attendance at court, and the other for the masculine gender (sic). These rooms are intended for use in cases where witnesses are excluded from the court room during the taking of testimony; the one for women for their general convenience at all times. In connection with the women's room is a cloak room, water closet and wash room.

#### Jury Rooms.

Special attention has been given to the convenience and comfort of jurors in attendance upon court. There are two rooms for their use, each 19 feet 9 inches by 16 feet 6 inches, well lighted, warmed and ventilated. Off both are cloak-rooms, water closets, and wash-rooms.

#### The Supervisors' Rooms.

The board of supervisors have (sic) been well cared for. The room in which their sessions will be held is on the east side of the building, directly opposite the court room. There is a large double window opening on the front veranda, and two other windows of smaller size. The assembly room is 37 feet 4 inches by 22 feet 6 inches; there are two large radiators in this room; there is a cloak room off. There are double swinging doors into the room. Connected with the assembly room by folding doors, are the main

committee rooms, 22 feet 4 inches by 22 feet 6 inches. Off this is a wash room and closet room; a door leads directly into the hall.

#### In General

Outside the court room, the apartments in the second story are 18 feet 8 inches. The tower between the first and the second story is surrounded by a handsome cherry railing, leaving the view unobstructed from the hallway of the first floor. The plaster paris corbels on columns forming tower, are finely bronzed by the frescoer.

#### The Tower.

The four columns forming the tower are built of brick, solid masonry, from the foundation up. Eight inches of grouting form the basis; on top of this are about four feet of dimension stone, about ten feet square at the bottom. From where the brick commences, the columns are built of hard-burned brick, laid in cement mortar and flushed with cement. At the top these columns culminate in the cupalo (sic), making the tower square at the top up to where it is rounded off. A square tower is something of an innovation, but it certainly gives the building a substantial imposing appearance. The tower is artistically cut up by stone arches and columns with some pretty carved works. The tower is composed of re-pressed brick, stone, galvanized iron, terra-cotta, lead and tin. Just below the dome of the tower there is standing room for many persons, stairs leading that far up from the interior of the building. The view from this point is enchanting. To the south lies the business portion of the city. To the east the town and country form a view fully as attractive, while to the north the rolling land, dotted by many houses, makes a scene which long holds the attention. On a clear day the spires of Tecumseh may be discerned. To the west is perhaps the most pastoral view of all.

#### The Stairways.

There are two grand stairways from the first or office floor to the second, located respectively on the north and south sides of the center of the side hallway. The posts and banisters are of cherry and rise and tread of Georgia yellow pine. The newell (sic) posts show elaborate carving, and the stairways altogether are the handsomest we have seen in many a day. There is also a very neat private stairway from the clerk's private office to the court room. This work was done by DeGraff, Vrieling & Co., of Grand Rapids, and, notwithstanding the fact that their establishment was burned a short time ago, and all this material once destroyed, with commendable enterprise they succeeded in replacing it, and in fine shape, too. The work is under the personal supervision of the younger Mr. DeGraff.

#### The Heating Apparatus.

After thus completing the circuit of the building, a natural desire arises to more minutely examine the details of the structure, and not the least object of interest is the system by which the necessary degree of warmth is to be given each of the large number of apartments. One cannot fail to note, as the building is examined, that from the number of tubular radiators distributed about, the design is to have plenty of heat, and that it is to be of the best quality is understood, when we notice that it is to be created by means of steam alone. The boiler, which is a mammoth concern, is located in the northwest corner apartment of the basement. It is horizontal and tubular, steel shell and double riveted, and it has been tested to a pressure of over 200 pounds to the inch. However, the system is "low pressure," and in the coldest weather not over 15 pounds of steam will be required. All steam sent through the pipes is condensed and returned to the boiler, so that

two or three pailsfull will supply the waste of water per day. The heating pipes throughout the building are exposed, so that any repairs can be made without injury to the surroundings, the heating control was let to John A. Waite, of Toledo, who ordered the boiler from the Vulcan iron company, of Cleveland. Mr. Waite also has the contract to put in the gas piping in connection with the water system.

#### The Ventilation.

Which forms an important item in the structure, also deserves a passing notice. It will be observed that although adequate heating facilities have been provided by means of steam throughout the structure, grates for open fires are arranged in every suite of rooms. The principal object of this is to secure through ventilation. Each chimney is so connected with these grate fires and with the outer air, by means of different flues, that a constant supply of pure fresh, and partially warmed air is forced into the building, adding immeasurably to its healthfulness and comfort.

#### The Gas Fixtures.

The contract for the gas-pipes and fixtures was sub-let by Mr. Waite to the Adrian gaslight company, and the work is being done with all the thoroughness which marks the building throughout. The pipes are set in slots in the walls, and covered with panels of Georgia pine, so that they are accessible at all times without damage to the building. The water and closet pipes are put up in the same manner. The gas fixtures will be elegant in appearance and substantial in make.

#### The Outer Doors.

In taking his leave of the building the visitor often lingers upon the broad stone steps, and turns to examine the entrance, and those of its surrounding which may have been omitted in entering. One of the objects on such occasions at once receiving marked attention is the outer doors. They are double, made of white pine, beautifully carved from the solid wood, while each has a full half panel of plate glass of an elegant shade.

#### The Chimneys.

A distant view of the court house gives no adequate idea of the real dimensions of anything connected with it, particularly of objects raised from the roof. The most noticeable feature in this respect is formed by the chimneys. They are in such excellent proportions, that their immense size is not realized, and a person who placed their height much above ten feet would be looked upon as rather "wild." In truth, however, they project above the roof a distance of twenty-three feet. Their sides are ornamented by terra-cotta designs. In this connection, it might be proper to conclude with a brief reference to

#### The Roof.

It is of slate, and was laid by Shiver, Weatherby & Co., of Grand Rapids, the same firm also doing the galvanized iron work. The roof is of the ordinary shade, while near its center a course of green tile extends entirely around the building. The "hips" of the roof are adorned with terra cotta work.

#### The Furniture.

The furniture, we are informed by the committee, has been contracted for, and will be made and set up in place on or before Nov. 1, by A. H. Andres & Co., of Chicago. The furniture will be of black walnut, and will be entirely in keeping with the structure. The record books will be accommodated by roller cases, the books running flat on rollers, the office of the register of deeds being almost entirely filled with these cases. There will

be counters and screens similar to those used in banks in both the treasurer's and clerk's offices. The judge of probate will maintain the dignity of his court behind a handsome carved bench. There will be the usual complement of writing desks, chairs, &c., in the offices.

In the court room proper the furniture will be substantial, but if we may judge from the drawing, very handsome. The judge has an elegant black walnut bench, lighted at each side by standard gas lamps. The clerk's desk is suited to his business, and is also very handsome. The chairs selected for the jury and bar must render the life of the jurymen, and even that of a lawyer (barring of course his conscience) comparatively easy. The aditorium (sic) will be seated with opera chairs, iron frame, wooden seat and back. These chairs are excellent for the purpose, and what is a very important feature, will not easily get out of order.

Each supervisor will have a desk of his own, with lock and key, the ordinary assembly desk being used.

Jury, witness, consultation and other apartments will be supplied with chairs, tables, desks, &c., as necessity may require.

A number of Croxton's patent cuspidors will be placed in the tile-floor in the lower hall-way. These are set in the floor, and will undoubtedly prove a great convenience, as they can be easily kept clean, and as it the case with an ordinary spittoon, no one can stumble over them.

#### Some Well-Deserved Credit.

And thus stands the new Lenawee county court house, nearly completed, and handsomer, better and more substantial than our people had a right to expect for the money invested. Much credit is due the architect and the plucky assignees of the original contractors, for, owing to the fact that the original contractors took the contract at an exceedingly low figure, the latter will lose a large amount of money, instead of, as they should, realizing a fair margin of profit. They have, however, gone on with the work, doing everything in first-class shape, and slighting not the smallest particular of the structure. Competent judges think that they will lack from \$5,000 to \$8,000. of coming out even on the contract.