

Houses.

Somerset Reporter

Aug. 18, 1886.

The Coburn House

One of the first places to be inquired for by strangers entering our village is the residence of the late Ex-Governor Coburn. The house in which the brothers, Abner and Philander Coburn, so long lived and in which much of the business connected with their extensive estates was transacted. The inquirer is directed to a large, square, two story wooden structure on the east side of Main street on the Bloomfield side, on the elevation known as "Baptist Hill." The striking feature of the exterior is the end fronting the street. It is of gothic style of architecture with four large fluted columns reaching from foundation to the eaves and gable, forming verandas corresponding with each of the two stories, which, with the vestibule at the main entrance on the south front of design to match the verandas, gives the house a massive substantial air that well accords with the character of the unostentatious, substantial business men who occupied it for so many years.

Soon after the death of the Ex-Governor this property was purchased by a relative of the Coburn family, Mr. A. H. Weston, whose wife is a niece and one of the heirs of the Coburn Brothers. Immediately upon making the purchase Mr. Weston began extensive repairs upon the building and has practically built over anew the whole interior of the house. The exterior excepting a projection on the north side and a tower at the south-east corner remaining as of old and we hope may be allowed to remain so for many years to come. The grounds have been rearranged and graded, the fences replaced by granite curbing, new driveways built, enclosing a fine lawn on the south front of the house with a large flower, fruit and vegetable garden further back.

The interior is now nearly ready for occupancy. The work is all completed with the exception of putting down carpets and setting up the furniture in a few rooms. Upon entering the house one is struck not only with the thoroughness, the workmanship and the richness of the material used, but in a marked degree with the harmonious blending in tints and designs extending down to the minutest detail, showing the artistic eye and touch that will not surprise those who are acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. Weston.

The halls and rooms are adorned with many paintings from Mrs. Weston's own trained brush. The halls in the main house with the stairways are finished in solid cherry throughout with elegant panel work of beautiful design and superior finish. There is a variety in the woods used for finishing the several rooms and in the mantles, ties, paper hangings, etc., that makes each unique. The dining-room is a gem of beauty and provided with every convenience that modern ingenuity can devise. It is finished in oak and the paper hangings, carpet and ~~furnishings~~ furnishings, throughout are in keeping, to a nicety.

The Governor's room on the second floor, in which perhaps more business has been done than in any other private room in the State of Maine, is enlarged by the extension heretofore noted, making it now 15 x 18 feet, is finished in birdseye maple. The little old brick fire-place by which the room was heated for 38 years is supplanted by a modern brick and tile one, and as now enlarged, with additional windows ~~and~~ looking out upon the street, and admitting the afternoon sunlight, is a very pleasant room.

The octagonal tower on the south-east, built anew from the ground, forms a very important addition to the library on the first floor and to the ~~two~~ sleeping apartment above while on the third floor it is fitted up and piped for plants and flowers in the winter. The outlook from this floor over the village and surrounding hills is a grand one.

The house is heated by steam, is thoroughly plumbed, has hot and cold water in every room where desirable, is lighted by gas, manufactured on the premises, has electric bells and speaking tubes conveniently adjusted, and has an abundance of pure spring water brought from an elevation one-half a mile away. The bath-room, kitchen, laundry, pantry, closets, cellar, etc, are fitted up with special regard to durability and convenience. A spacious and commodious stable with every convenience for horse and equipage adjoins the house.

As a whole, taking into account its location, its history, its substantial elegance and convenience, it will constitute, when completed, one of the most beautiful and interesting homes in Maine.