

HOUSE....No. 177.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 2, 1850.

The Committee, appointed at the last session of the Legislature, under the "Resolves for ventilating the Representatives' Hall," having attended to that duty during the recess, and having inspected the effect of the apparatus during the present session,

REPORT:

That they have caused the hall to be ventilated in accordance with the Resolves, and in general conformity to the plans laid down in the report of the Committee on Public Buildings, on this subject, at the last session. (See House Doc., No. 117.)

Instead of terminating the discharging shaft as shown on the sectional drawing, (Ho. Doc., No. 117,) it was thought better to insert horizontally, at this point, a large number of small ejecting ventilators, (Emerson's.)* They have applied them, therefore, in such a manner, and of such size, that their aggregate capacity is quite equal to the calibre of the main discharging shaft. While at the same time they have brought them out in regular groups, just under the cornice of the cupola, so as to detract nothing from its architectural structure or proportions.

Flues, of sufficient size to discharge the foul air from the lower part of the hall, have been carried from thence into chim-

* See engraving.

neys, which are constantly heated, and in which, therefore, there is always a regularly ascending current.

A very large and powerful gas-burner has been placed in the main ventilating shaft.

The chief supply of heat is from the very excellent and powerful furnace* of Gardner Chilson, Esq. It seems to possess ample powers for warming the hall of itself; but for the purpose of supplying occasionally more air than could be driven through any one furnace, the old wood-furnace (Safford's) has been refitted and rearranged for use, as occasion may require.

The whole platform under and in front of the Speaker's desk constitutes the distributing reservoir, and has been made perfectly fire-proof by the ingenious contrivance of making a flooring of fan-shaped plates of cast iron, and supporting it by an ornamental riser, which is also of cast iron.

The carpentry and the alterations in the ceiling were entrusted to Col. Wheeler; the iron work and the setting of the furnaces by Mr. Chilson, the contractors, and the masonry by Mr. Smith W. Nichols. All the work has been done in the most satisfactory manner, under the superintendence of your committee, and at a cost not exceeding the appropriation.

In conclusion, as so much of the comfort of members is necessarily dependent upon a *proper management* of the ample means of ventilation now at their disposal; we most respectfully recommend *that the serjeant-at-arms be fully authorized, if he is not already, to employ a suitable and intelligent assistant whose sole care it shall be, during the session, to superintend the warming and ventilation of the Representatives' Hall.*

All which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY G. CLARK,
DANIEL JACKSON.

* See cut.