THE builder of a home who seeks to impart something of his own individuality in his dwelling, finds that a long, low, two-story building is the one which is most susceptible of variation and most easily made to express his own tastes and character. The many other advantages, in convenience as well as in appearance, of the two-story form of structure are becoming widely realized, and it is to be hoped that this type will steadily grow in favor.

In the house here illustrated, the absence of dormer windows and the studied disposition of the chimneys and gables,—the latter without windows,—are effective features of the composition which would be impossible of attainment in a three-story structure.

This house is intended for a small family of unconventional requirements. Its keynote is a dignified simplicity. The interior details should harmonize with those of the exterior in being strong, vigorous and direct. Nothing extraneous should be admitted, nor should anything savoring of pretentiousness be introduced into the furnishings. The character of the inside should deepen the impression of restfulness and hospitality given by the exterior, and repeat the welcome that is conveyed by the approach to the house. For as the visitor passes through the little gate of the hedge-enclosed court, and enters the doorway under the low hood, each shadowy gable seems to beckon him, and he feels that he is penetrating into an inviting and agreeable retreat.

Within, he is ushered through an informal reception hall, on the side of which, opposite the entrance, are leaded casement sash in a partition which screens the inner precincts from view; then he passes up two steps into the spacious living-room itself. Here, everything speaks of comfort and privacy and the little nook at the back invites to rest. Its quaint, flat stone pavement, below the floor level, and its broad fireplace with seats and bookcases make it an attractive spot. Here one can lie at ease and enjoy the charming rural scenes framed by the long, low windows at the back; for it is presumed that an extended view of the surrounding
country is commanded from the rear of the house; so, a large open terrace and rows of low silled windows are placed at the back of the hall or nook.

The orientation of the house has received careful attention. The dining-room contains a large bay window filled with small casements, which, on bright mornings, admits a flood of light. The warmest day of summer cannot deprive this room of a delightful current of air. The same may be said of nearly all portions of the house: the great desideratum, “cross-draughts,” having been fully considered in the disposition of the windows, all of which are casements, filled with leaded lights of clear glass and of varying shapes; the sash in most cases being effectively clustered in groups. It is safe to say that no one of the innumerable practical features making for convenience in housekeeping and comfort in living has been slighted.

Certain features of the composition call for special comment. The gable above the entrance is used in the design as a foil to conceal the porch roof with its flat slope; such a porch being an anomaly in this style of architecture. The sketches portray the house as it should appear, and are not unduly imaginative, for, in the actual construction, all lines should be softened and all surfaces roughened and dulled in tone, in order to do away with the appearance of glaring newness. The first story is of reddish brown bricks, or of irregular field stones, or of both, intermingled, as in the chimneys, to accentuate the harmony of tone by offering the needed contrast: the stuccato notes, as it were, of the composition. The plastering between the rough-hewn timber work is white, while the timbers themselves, as well as the other woodwork, are almost black. The shingles of the roofs are of varying sizes, laid with uneven lines, and stained to give the effect of age. These component materials assembled by the hand of man cannot, however, be made to blend immediately with their surroundings, but with the aid of time, clusters of roses and hanging vines, trees and trailing arbors with their color and shade, will come to add distinction to the whole picture.