



PETS OF THE FARMHOUSE ON ROUND TOP FARM.



NEW SCHOOLHOUSE AT
Gift of F. P. Olcott. To cost about \$75,000.

MR. OLCOTT'S GENEROSITY

Round Top Farm's Owner Is a Good Neighbor to Have.

On one of the most beautiful sites near Bernardsville, N. J., will stand the schoolhouse which is now being built by Frederic P. Olcott, president of the Central Trust Company, of this city, and which, when completed, will be presented by him to Bernards Township. The tract on which the building stands comprises twenty-seven acres and cost \$10,000.

It is Mr. Olcott's purpose to construct a school building that in point of attractiveness and appointments will be the finest in the State, and it is understood that the entire cost will approximate \$75,000.

The building will be 125 feet front, 50 feet deep and three stories high. The exterior of the building will be white Waterloo granite, finished with rock face and cut trimmings, and a red tile roof. The interior will be finished throughout in hard wood.

The basement will contain a gymnasium, 30 by 90 feet in size, fitted up with the latest apparatus.

The first story will contain four recitation rooms, which will accommodate fifty pupils each, and which is approached through a cut stone porch, leading into a broad hallway, with a staircase at the entrance. The second floor is a counterpart of the first.

The third floor will have a large room, 30 by 75 feet, which may be used as a playroom for

girls, an assembly room or a kindergarten. In addition to this room there will be two smaller recitation rooms, and also two sleeping rooms, with bathrooms attached, which can, if necessary, be used by resident teachers. Smaller rooms will also be upon this floor, for book storage and similar uses.

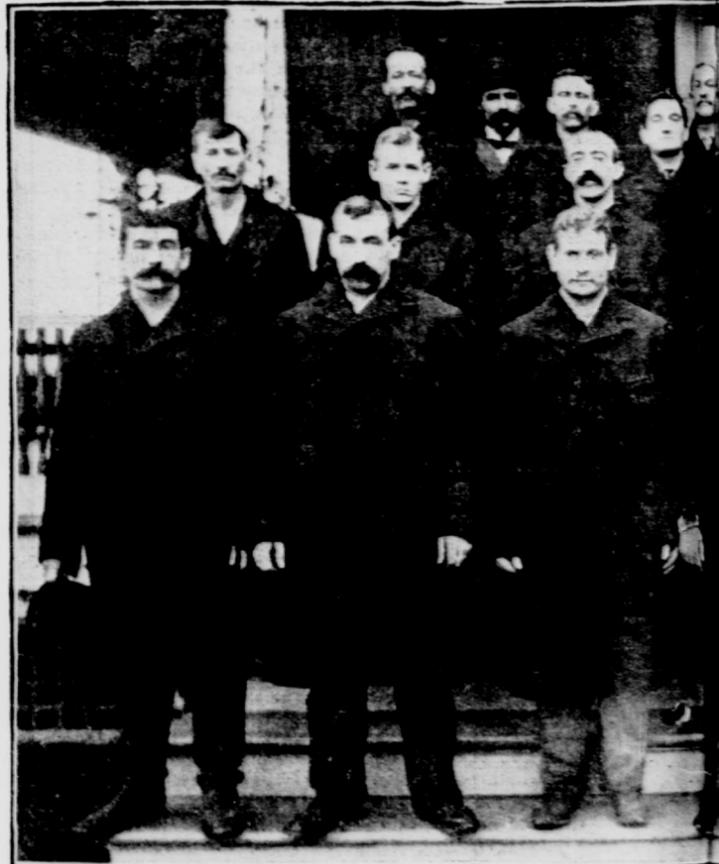
The building will be heated by steam, and will contain a ventilating plant of the most modern type. H. J. Hardenberg, of New-York, is the architect.

Of the twenty-seven acres surrounding the building Mr. Olcott will make, in addition to ordinary playgrounds, a fine baseball ground, a running track and a tennis court. A grove at one end of the tract will be beautified and fitted up by Mr. Olcott as a picnic ground. This grove contains a spring of clear water, which will be utilized to supply the schoolhouse.

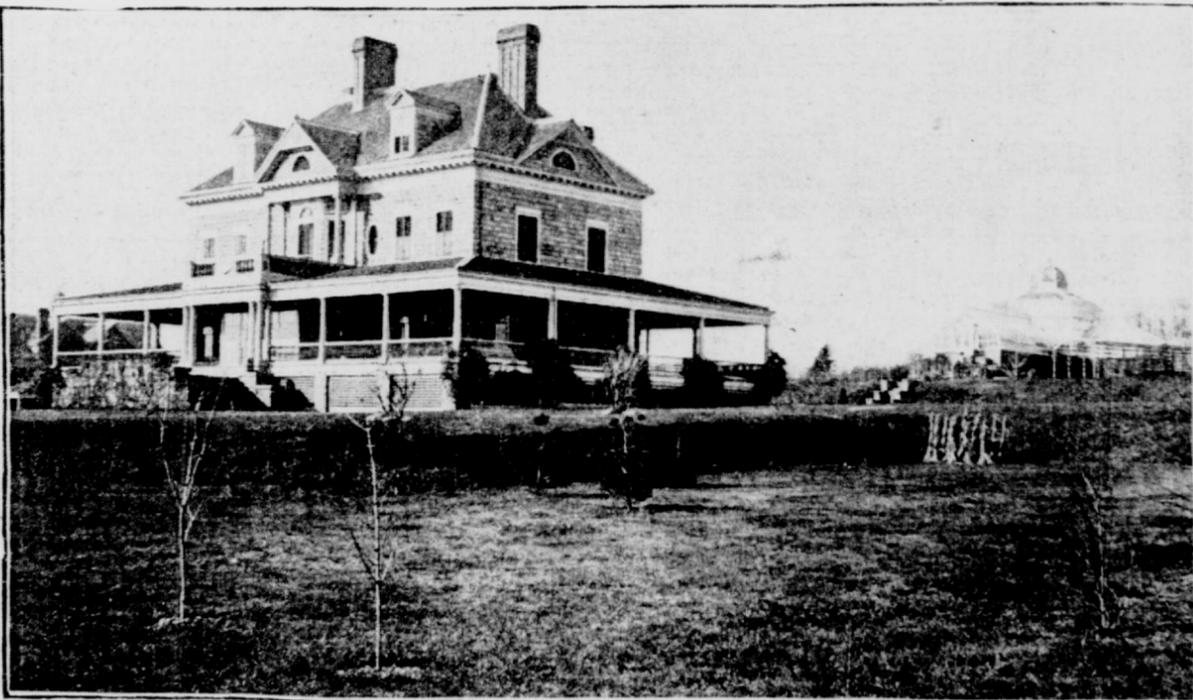
The property is given with certain restrictions. None of the land can ever be sold, although much of it would make desirable building sites. Neither can the school at any time become a denominational one. In that event the property reverts to the giver.

The place is an ideal one for a schoolhouse, being within easy access of the village of Bernardsville, and yet it is quiet and comparatively secluded. Three broad, level fields stretch along Wolfe-ave., and in the centre the school building will stand.

The outlook from this spot is a fine one. To the north, two miles away as the crow flies, is the Childs Ridge, on which is the home of Senator S. S. Childs. Beyond his house the windings of the "Old Army Road" gleam white in the distance. Kimble Mountain, the camping



GROUP OF WORKMEN IN CHRISTMAS OVERALLS.
Mr. Olcott is in the front row.



MR. OLCOTT'S COUNTRY HOME AT ROUND TOP FARM.
Greenhouses and farm buildings in the background.

place of Washington's army in Revolutionary days, rises at the terminus of this road, which was used by the soldiers as a "short cut" to Bernardsville and its hospitable tavern. To the east are the plains of Morris County, stretching miles away. On the south are the blue hills of Somerset, and on the west rises wooded Mine Mount, the home of a score of New-Yorkers.

The nearest of these is Round Top Farm, the home of Mr. Olcott. It comprises 500 acres under a high state of cultivation. The place takes its name from Round Top Mountain, an elevation that rises at the extreme west of the farm. "Old Round Top," as it has been called for a generation by the villagers, is a landmark for miles. Mr. Olcott has been at considerable expense beautifying this mountain, and has laid out a roadway of seven miles to its summit. This park, like all of Mr. Olcott's estate, is open to the public, and many driving parties enjoy its shady depths and the fine outlook from the summit. A trout brook turns and twists around its base, and something of its circuitous way can be understood when it is known that in less than a mile one crosses ten bridges over the same stream on its crooked way to Mine Brook.

Human feet had seldom trodden this mountain for generations before it became the property of Mr. Olcott, excepting when woodsmen penetrated its wilds. This was partly on account of the prevalence of rattlesnakes, and the men would return telling such wonderful tales of the snakes that the children of former years would gaze upon it with awe and pass into its shadow with bated breath.

Mr. Olcott is an enthusiast in floriculture. In his large greenhouses are many rare and beautiful plants, and a chrysanthemum show

is made every autumn for the public. A feature of the place has been a field of peaches, not allow any of the fruit to be sold, but everything not so is given away.

Mr. Olcott was the son of Seney, of the Bernardsville family. He holds the position of trustee of the Albany Academy. Both the Methodist Episcopal and the Catholic churches of this place were founded by him. He has a beautiful cup which was presented to him by the Albany Academy. His native place, and where he was born, is a small town in the school. Years ago, when Mr. Olcott presented it with a large sum of money.

Mr. Olcott is a lover of horses, and for years he has had the finest stock in the State. His piazzas are the track for the track of regulation harness animals show their great strength. His animals, which number 100, are of Arion (2:10), two years by Senator Leland Stanford, Farm, California, and worth for \$25,000. Athol is the chief stock, chief of which are Delta, 2:12. Othello is the Palatka and Alar. A fine bred Cote, with a record of 2:00.

One cold morning, while going to the station to meet one of his friends, he met one of his workmen, thinly clad and with a hat noted these facts in his