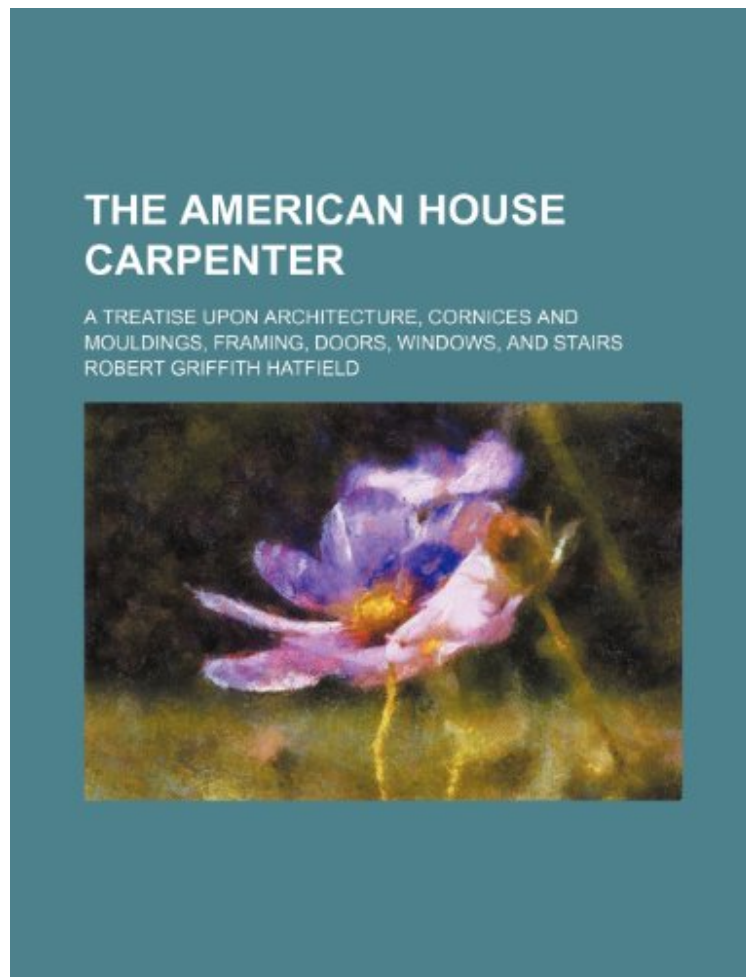


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The American house carpenter; a treatise upon architecture, cornices and mouldings, framing, doors, windows, and stairs

Robert Griffith Hatfield

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186.) When the inclination of a roof, Fig. 194,) is one-fourth of the span, or of a shed, Fig. 193,) is one-half the span, the horizontal thrust of a rafter, whose centre of gravity is at the middle of its length, is exactly equal to the weight distributed uniformly over its surface. The inclination, in a rafter uniformly loaded, which will produce the least oblique pressure, (b e, Fig. 193,) is 35 degrees and 16 minutes. 258.--In shed, or lean-to roofs, as Fig. 193, the horizontal pressure will be entirely removed, if the bearings of the rafters, as A, B, Fig. 195,) are made horizontal--provided, however, that the rafters and other framing do not bend between the points of support. If a beam or rafter have a natural curve, the convex or rounding edge should be laid uppermost. 259.--A beam laid horizontally, supported at each end and uniformly loaded, is subject to the greatest strain at the middle of its length. The amount of pressure at that point is equal to half of the whole load sustained. The greatest strain coming upon the middle of such a beam, mortices, large knots and other defects, should be kept as far as possible from that point; and, in resting a load upon a beam, as a partition upon a floor beam, the weight should be so adjusted that it will bear at or near the ends. (See Art. 282.) 260.--The resistance of timber. When the stress that a given load exerts in any particular direction, has been ascertained, before the proper size of the timber can be determined for the resistance of that pressure, the strength of the kind of timber to be used must be known. The following rules for calculating the resistance of timber, are based upon the supposition that the timber used be of what is called "merchantable" quality--tha...