DESCRIPTIONS.

THE NEW BANKING OFFICE OF "THE PHILADELPHIA SAVING FUND SOCIETY."

THIS edifice is an example of the fast developing tendency to build for the future as well as for the present, not only with respect to commodiousness and convenience, but also to durability. Institutions of this kind have, until recently, been content to occupy buildings of ordinary construction, but various causes have combined to induce some of them to provide better and more substantial facilities for business.

Foremost in Philadelphia, if not in the country, in taking care of the savings of the poor, stands "The Philadelphia Saving Fund Society." Founded in 1816, and managed by a succession of our best citizens, it has continued to grow in strength and usefulness, until the present building has been found insufficient for the accommodation of the business, which, attracted by the solid character and reputation of the Society, sought the way to its doors.

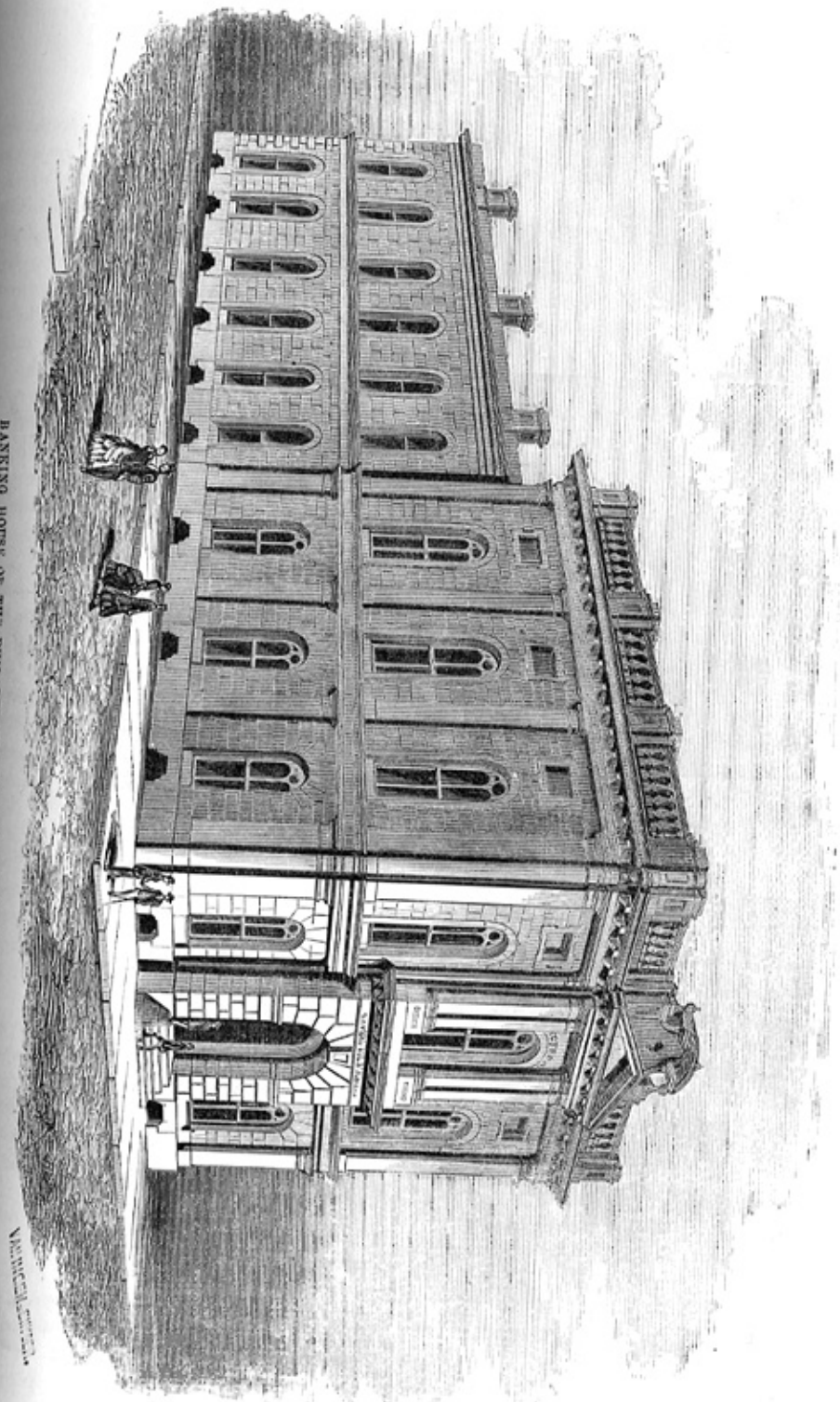
To enlarge its capabilities for doing good—the Managers receive no emolument whatever for their services—this Society, in the latter part of the year 1865, determined on the erection of a new and more commodious building than that which they now occupy. Having purchased a suitable location, at the southwest corner of Walnut street and West Washington Square, they proceeded to procure plans and estimates for their new structure.

Here we may pause to commend the sagacity and benevolence of this body of men in choosing a site, for it is not too much to say, that in the whole city another such could not be found. Convenient to the great business centre, with the large front on one of the finest Squares in the city, nothing could be better suited to the purposes of business and to the health and comfort of the employés of the institution. Especially also is it favorable for the display of the architecture of the building. Too frequently our street views are so cramped, that the design of the architect, be it good or bad, is distorted by the unfavorable lines of vision. Here, owing to the open Square, it is otherwise The whole structure can be embraced in a glance, and an object which in a narrow and crowded street would only be noticed as a thing of utility, becomes, largely owing to the circumstance of location, an ornament to the city.

The design adopted as the most suitable to meet the several requirements of the Society, was prepared by ADDISON HUTTON, Esq., and under his supervision the building has been enclosed during the past season.

The front on Walnut street is 51 feet 6 inches, and on Washington Square, 130 feet, in length, leaving 40 feet of clear space in the rear. To those of our readers who are familiar with the material of which these fronts are built—Quincy Granite—we need scarcely state, that the building is more handsome than the drawing would lead one to expect. The strongly-marked expression of stability is in harmony with the character of the institution. Beyond plain lines of moulding, and the crowning balustrade, it may be said to be devoid of ornament, the architect having relied, for his effects, mainly on the distribution and contrast of light and shade, and the intrinsic beauty of the material.

But the most satisfactory of all its points is, that it is constructed with such imperishable and indestructible materials. Granite, brick and iron form the essentials of the structure, no pains or



BANKING HOUSE OF THE PHILADELPHIA SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY.

expense having been spared to make it thoroughly fire-proof. The lower floor is vaulted on walls, the upper floors and ceilings on wrought-iron beams; affording security alike from without and within.

The Banking-room is 57 by 53 feet, and the ceiling 40 feet high, in the clear. The rear wing of the building is subdivided, on the first floor, into the President's room, Treasurer's room, two large, strong rooms, and several Retiring-rooms; on the second floor, into the Managers' Meeting-room, Dining-room, Waiting-room, Book-room, and Retiring-room.

The ceiling will be coved and frescoed in panels, and the interior will be finished with walnut and ash woods, with the introduction of a portion of marble.

The counters will have marble fronts with a top screen of walnut wood and plate-glass; the floor will be laid, outside the counters, with brown and blue flag, in alternate diamond patterns.

It would be beyond the proper limits of this article, to go into the details of the furniture and decorations, but we are assured that every thing will be done with an eye to the proper fitness of things.

We may again allude to this department, when the building is entirely completed; just now we can only compliment Mr. HUTTON on the evidence of success displayed in the well-proportioned, solid and suggestive building before us, presenting, as it does, those intelligent features of Bank Architecture which, while they abjure mere meretricious ornamentation, display a dignity at once worthy of the style, and the use it is applied to.

In a former number we drew a line of distinction between the styles of finish most consonant to the respective subjects of BANK BUILDING; making the *Savings Bank* a less pretentious structure, than that for Discount and Deposit. Mr. HUTTON'S design admirably illustrates the theory.

NEW JERSEY ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

HOSPITAL construction is a subject we have already touched upon; but it is one which must ever prove of the utmost importance to every community. If man in his perfect health requires the safeguards which keep him in that most desirable state, how much more does he stand in need of the most careful sanitary arrangements when sickness and disease usurp the place of health, and leave the system impotent, and craving every aid which his attendants can afford him. His wealth will command all that science can give; but how is it with the poorer invalid? He, alas, is forced to accept of such assistance in his suffering, as benevolence, dictated by religion and humanity, bestow. It is for this latter class, that, in every community, medical and nutritive assistance is given on a comprehensive scale, by institutions aptly designated HOSPITALS. Here the sick are the guests (*hospes*) of the community, and receive its hospitality, until health is re-established.

To the architect belongs the thorough arrangement of the hospital. All the principles involved in its sanitary perfectness are in his keeping; subject, of course, to such hints as the medical faculty can give him, and such aids as he obtains from inventions of others. In our day this branch of the professional labors is one that calls forth all the untiring diligence and careful attention of the architect, and it is something to be proud of, that he is liberally sustained, in his efforts, by the community for whom he toils.

The accommodation required for insane patients being necessarily limited in a general hospital, the establishment of institutions expressly dedicated to their wants became general. Lunatic Asylums were founded on the most comprehensive and scientific principles, and sites for this purpose were chosen, pos-