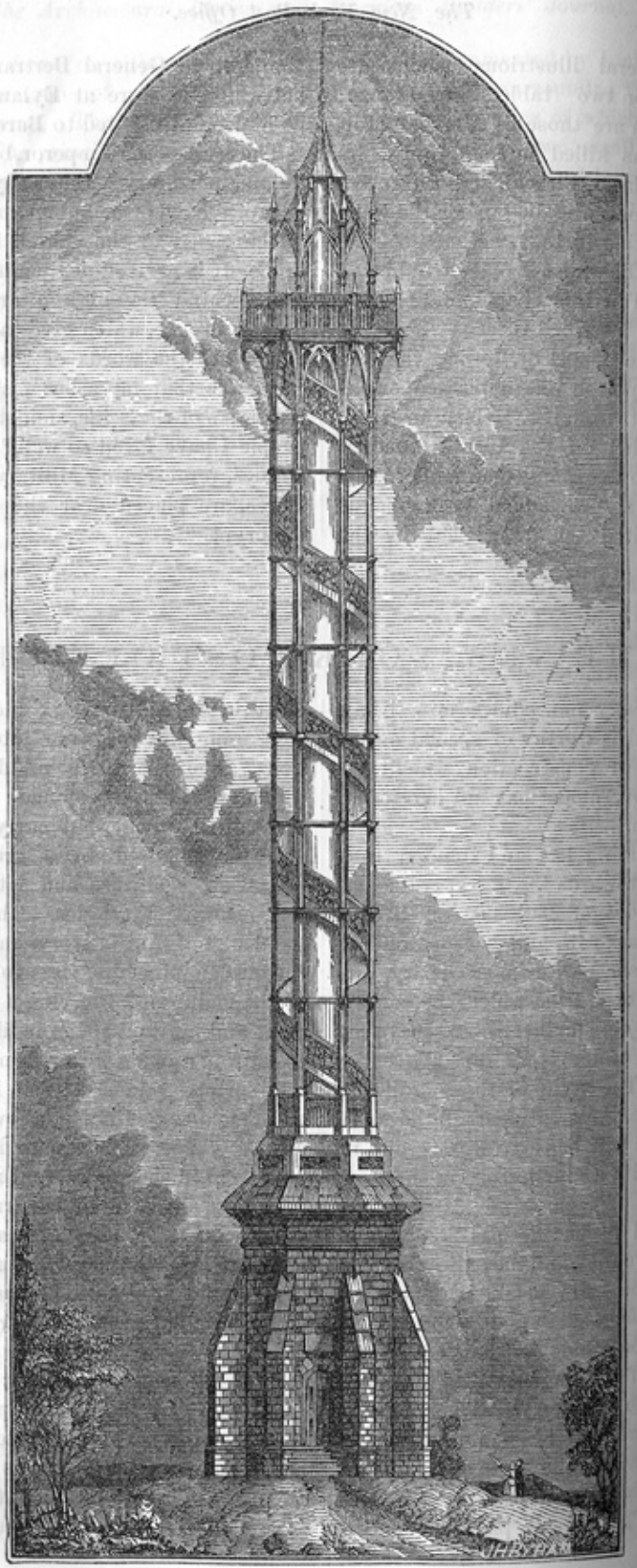


vanced in an open two-storied portico of 16 detached columns, above which the third order is thrown back in a screen of eight columns, also detached, against the front. The front of the portico is brought forward in a balcony of four columns, and in the second story with a pediment which carries a group of allegorical figures, balanced in either side by pedestals supporting the national arms. The attic above the main cornice is ornamented by 12 Caryatides and a sculptured pediment. The dome, which surmounts the whole, is like that of the the Park front, already described.

"The General Post Office occupies the whole of the ground floor, the inner walls throughout being carried in this story on iron columns, so as to leave the area unbroken by partitions excepting for the boxes. The mails will be received and delivered to the wagons on the north-east front or part, an ornamental roof or awning of glass, and iron being thrown out for protection while being received or discharged. The public corridor occupies all the other fronts, having seven doors each on Broadway and Park-row, and three in the south front.

"The distinguishing feature in the arrangement of this Post Office, as of that in Boston, is the introduction of a *mezzanine* or half story above the public corridor; this *mezzanine* is made simply a gallery open to the interior of the Post Office room."

THE STAND PIPE, FAIRMOUNT.

THE visitor to our much admired Water-works, among the numerous attractive objects which surround him, is certain to have his eye caught by the slender, graceful pillar, enclosed by a surrounding stairs, which we illustrate on the adjoining page. It is the stand-pipe for the supply of water to the district west of the Schuylkill, which, having no reservoir is dependent on this being kept full, for a necessary supply of the generous beverage.

Two cornish butt-pumps keep it duly supplied with water; each having a steam cylinder thirty inches in diameter and eight feet stroke; plungers being seventeen and a half inches in diameter. Through this medium, water is delivered to a population of about forty thousand.

In the Summer of 1854, this fairy like structure was raised, under the superintendence of its designer, Mr. H. T. M. Birkenbine, C. E., then City Engineer, to whose taste and skill our citizens are much indebted for the many attractive works at Fairmount.

This stand pipe is situated on the high ground, about two thousand feet from the works, near Thirty-fifth and Sycamore streets. Its base is one hundred feet above the level of the river. The central portion of it consists of a pipe of heavy boiler plate, five feet in diameter, and one hundred and thirty feet high. Around the lower part of the pipe is an octangular base of ashler work of gneiss rock, thirty-six feet high; each angle of this base is sustained by a buttress. On the top of the stone work there is a landing, enclosed by a railing, and from this landing a special stairs, winding around the stand-pipe, terminates in a platform, one hundred and fifteen feet above the base; a railing of Gothic scroll work protects the outside of the steps. Eight cluster columns, standing opposite each angle of the stone base, support the outside of the step; the upper platform is sustained by ornamental brackets, springing from the columns, which are continued above the platform where they are connected together, and to the stand-pipe, by flying buttresses; this platform is surrounded by a Gothic railing. The stand-pipe is surmounted by a spire and flag-staff. The whole structure is of iron except the base.