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DECORATION

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CONSTRUCTION

BOSTON MASS.

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[Gelatin Print, issued with the International and Imperial Editions only.]

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THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS.

VOL. LIX.

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JANUARY 15, 1898.



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ACCORDING to the *Philadelphia Press*, the restoration of Independence Hall is delayed by certain archaeological problems, which have a good deal of general interest. The people concerned are anxious to have the building brought back exactly to its original appearance, but it is not easy to decide what that appearance was. The wings and porticos are known to have had pitched roofs, but objection has been made to the new specifications, which provide for covering these roofs with slates, that such buildings, at the date of the erection of Independence Hall, were covered with shingles, and that slates were unknown; and, again, there is a dispute whether the shingles used had square or octagonal ends; and the contractor is said to be still awaiting a decision on this point. Meanwhile, it may not be amiss to observe that, whatever Independence Hall may originally have been covered with, slate roofs were certainly not unknown in 1732, when it was in process of construction, for, although the native quarries were not then worked, many roofs in this country are known to have been covered, long before that time, with slates brought from Wales. Moreover, supposing shingles to have been actually used, we know of no authority for supposing that they had octagonal ends. Naturally, few or no shingled roofs have descended to us intact from that period, and the inference is, that those who support the theory of octagonal ends derive their opinion from old pictures; but pictures would show no difference between shingles and tiles on roofs; and, while tiles were, at that period, and for many years previously, extensively used for covering roofs in New York and in other places under Dutch influence, and were, presumably, then, as now, frequently made with octagonal ends, to prevent the breaking-off of the corners, which is apt to occur with square ends, the sawing of the ends of shingles into fancy shapes is not only worse than useless, as a practical measure, but would have been, with the tools available a hundred and fifty years ago, troublesome and expensive.

ANOTHER question which agitates the Philadelphia archæologists is whether the hall was paved with brick or marble; and, as in the previous case, it seems quite likely, in the absence of any documentary evidence, that neither was used. The first half of the last century was rather remarkable for the development of the brick-and-tile industry. At Mount Vernon, for example, which was built in 1734, a curious variety of plain and moulded bricks, paving-tiles and copings is still to be seen, and examples of moulded brick water-tables, and of floor-tiles, both square and octagonal, dating from the same period, are still quite numerous in the Eastern States. It is much more likely that these were used than that the floor was covered with an ugly and heavy brick pavement, while it is, to say the least, improbable that marble tiles, which, at that time, would have been very costly, as well as unsuitable, were employed.

If any stone were used for paving, it would probably have been a sandstone, in thick slabs, and indications of such a pavement, if it ever existed, should still be visible.

THE Capitol Commission of Pennsylvania seems to have forgotten the clause in the statute which limits the cost of the new Capitol at Harrisburg to five hundred and fifty thousand dollars. It is understood that the design which it selected must be shorn, not only of the dome which, in accordance with the desire expressed by the Commission in its programme, had been provided, but of a considerable portion of the stipulated accommodation, to bring it within the limit of cost, even if built of modest materials; yet, at a meeting a short time ago, the Commission formally decided to adopt white marble for the whole of the exterior! The architect hopes, it is said, to have the building in readiness for the next Legislature, and the work is to be pushed as rapidly as possible.

AN extraordinary, and hopeful, display of independence was made a week or so ago in New York, by the members of the Housesmiths' Union. This organization, as will be remembered, was once famous for the blind docility with which its members followed the orders of their chiefs, as well as for the arrogance with which the latter used their power. Quite recently, the firm of J. B. & J. M. Cornell, who are furnishing the steel frame of the twenty-nine-story building on Park Row, near the St. Paul Building, were accused of employing non-union men. The walking-delegate of the Housesmiths' Union ordered the building struck, and sixty men left work, while the other members of the Board of Walking-delegates ordered a "sympathetic strike" of the carpenters, hod-hoisters and bricklayers, in pursuance of which three hundred more men laid down their tools. The strike was maintained for about a week, when the men began to grumble, and to contrast their condition of enforced idleness in the depth of winter with that of the walking-delegates, who draw their comfortable salaries without regard to strikes. "Parks," said one, "does not care how long we stay out, for he gets paid, whether we work or not." Other men echoed these mutinous sentiments, and at last one announced that he had lost his Christmas dinner to please Mr. Parks, but that he did not propose to lose his New Year's dinner also, and, for one, he was going to work. Thereupon he put on his overalls, took up his bag of tools, and climbed up to the place where he had been working a week previously. The others present followed his example, and in a few minutes the strike was over. Of course, if the walking-delegates can find means for making a terrible example of these rebels, as a warning to others, they are likely to do so, for the blind obedience of slaves on the part of the men, and absolute despotism on that of the leaders, are the very foundations of the system which some people would have us regard as a step toward the enfranchisement of mankind; but it is not very easy to discipline sixty men at once, or even to visit retribution upon them one by one, without drawing the attention of other organized workmen, and, perhaps, precipitating the struggle between the organized and the organizers which seems to be already impending.

THE appointment of Mr. Thomas J. Brady as Superintendent of Buildings for the Boroughs of Manhattan and Bronx will be received with satisfaction by the profession in New York. Mr. Brady was for six years in charge of the Building Department of New York, and his administration was extremely satisfactory, so far as his own part in it was concerned. With the increased power and responsibility which the new charter confers upon him, Mr. Brady will undoubtedly be able to improve the details of the service of inspection, to the advantage of the public. Meanwhile, it must be remembered that about five hundred thousand dollars' worth of building is done every week in New York, and that, if all this work is to be looked after by the public officers so closely as to make sure of its being safely and strongly done, money enough must be spent to employ a large force of competent men to do the inspection.

THE newspaper reports of the illness or death of Alexander R. Shepherd recall the career of a man of extraordinary ability and foresight, and, probably, of better intentions than were once attributed to him. "Governor" Shepherd was

a poor boy, who was obliged to begin earning his living when he was thirteen years old. He found a place, first as a carpenter's apprentice, and afterwards as a plumber's helper. Before many years he had bought out his employer's business, and started as a plumber on his own account. He interested himself in politics, and became a member of the Council of the District of Columbia. This was about 1870, when the movement which has made Washington a great political and social centre had just begun. At that time the national Capital was a straggling Virginia town, plunged in mud and malaria, with its avenues and streets indicated, if at all, mainly by sign-posts. Congress determined that an effort should be made to improve it, and the President appointed Shepherd Governor of the District. In this capacity he pursued a course which seemed to the taxpayers of the District wildly extravagant. The principal streets were paved with asphalt, sewers were built, and public buildings were erected, at an enormous expense. In a few years he had spent forty million dollars, and, besides increasing the taxes, he had encumbered the city with a debt of twenty-seven million dollars. In 1874, the indignant taxpayers, after many efforts, secured his removal from office, and he returned to private life. His business had, however, suffered during his term in the public service, and he was obliged to go through bankruptcy. He started afresh, however, and in a few years paid his former creditors in full, and went to Mexico, with a capital sufficient for supporting new investments. He bought mineral lands, formed companies, and soon made a large fortune. He has, however, never returned to this country, except for occasional visits.

It is with great regret that we learn of the discontinuance of *Garden and Forest*, a journal which has for ten years represented all that was best in scientific horticulture and forestry in this country. The publishers say that there are not enough persons interested in these subjects in the United States to make such a journal self-supporting, which is hardly fair to the thousands of people who like gardening and its literature; but the dealers in seeds and plants find it profitable to send out cheap publications which not only advertise their goods but interest a public which is not, as a rule, very discriminating, and these works seem to supply the greater part of the demand. It is to be hoped, however, that the learning and skill which have made *Garden and Forest* so valuable to serious readers will not be long without the means of communication with those who need their aid. In this country, especially, such men as those who have contributed to *Garden and Forest* have a most important mission to fulfil; and, like many other things of value, their counsel, although it may at first be properly appreciated only by the few whose attainments enable them to comprehend it fully, will gain credit as experience shows its value.

THE Governor of Massachusetts, in his annual message to the Legislature, makes a suggestion of considerable importance. Speaking of the canal across Cape Cod, which so many associations of capitalists have undertaken to carry out, and, after spending large sums of money, have abandoned, Governor Wolcott says that it is reasonable to infer from the history of the enterprise that such a canal does not, in the opinion of expert engineers, promise a financial return sufficiently large, and sufficiently certain, to induce the investment of the money required to complete it. At the same time, it is well established that such a canal would not only be advantageous to the commerce of the State, but would render coastwise navigation much safer than it is now. At present, something like one hundred vessels a day, on an average, sail around the end of the Cape on their way to and from New England ports. In case of easterly or southeasterly storms, these vessels are dangerously exposed, and the beaches of Provincetown, Truro and Chatham are dotted with the wrecks of coasting schooners. A canal across the Cape would enable captains to take their vessels directly from the shelter of Massachusetts Bay into Vineyard Sound, and would save, in the aggregate, many days of delay in coastwise voyages, to say nothing of lives and property. In view of all the circumstances, it seems to the Governor that a work from which such benefits could be expected, but which, as a financial enterprise, no one is likely to undertake, might with propriety be carried out by utilizing the labor of men whom the State supports at great expense, — namely, prisoners; and he promises to submit to the Legislature plan for employing such labor in this way.

ALTHOUGH the idea of employing prison labor on out-of-door works is associated in the public mind with chain-gangs and brutality, there can be no doubt that, if properly managed, this is by far the most wholesome way in which such persons can be occupied. There is no danger that public sentiment in Massachusetts would permit brutal treatment of prisoners, and the treatment of the canal laborers would be so easily watched by the public that any misconduct on the part of overseers would be immediately noticed; while, as the example of Missouri shows, an overseer who wishes to be brutal is quite as likely to be so within the prison walls as outside of them. As a large proportion of the convicts in our prisons are men accustomed to outdoor labor, the canal work would be quite suitable to their physical habits, and it would certainly be more interesting than the labor of breaking stone in a prison yard. In fact, it would be well worth while to see whether the knowledge of the humanitarian purpose of their work might not have a beneficial influence upon some of the prisoners. We have always had an idea that it would be desirable to give forced labor of the sort, so far as possible, a directly charitable purpose. A prisoner who can be induced to work hard simply to help some one who needs his assistance is not beyond hope, and the knowledge that his labor will do something toward saving the life of many a brave sailor ought to serve as an inspiration to some prisoners, at least, who find none in the stone-breaking yard or the shoe-shop.

A COMMITTEE has been formed in France to obtain subscriptions for the erection of a statue to Pierre de Montreuil, or Pierre de Montereau, as Viollet-le-Duc calls him, the architect of the Sainte Chapelle, and of various other less familiar buildings. According to Viollet-le-Duc, Pierre de Montereau represents the culmination of thirteenth-century French Gothic, and certainly deserves a monument, if any architect does. Fortunately, more is known of him than of most mediæval architects, and it has been ascertained that he was born in the Château de Montreuil, near the village of Montreuil-sous-Bois, about the year 1200. He seems to have been by birth a person of some importance, for King Louis, who would hardly have entrusted a great undertaking, in his absence, to a mere workman, confided to him the task of preparing a sanctuary worthy to receive the Crown of Thorns, which he had purchased in Venice on his crusading expedition, and which is still preserved, although, as we believe, it has lately been removed from the Sainte Chapelle to Notre Dame. A model for the proposed statue has been made by M. Raphaël Peyre, and represents the architect as seated in a chair of mediæval design, holding on his knee a model of the Sainte Chapelle. It is intended to cast the figure in bronze, and set it on a pedestal, ornamented with bas-reliefs, showing motives from the artist's principal works.

A NEW method of decorating surfaces with color has been devised by M. Charles Henry, which promises to have an extended development. Every one knows that if a drop of oil, or of spirit of turpentine, is allowed to fall on water, it will spread over the surface of the water, showing iridescent colors as the pellicle extends, and becomes thin enough to cause interferences in the light reflected from the upper and lower surfaces. Sometimes these iridescent colors are very brilliant, particularly with turpentine or essential oils, but they disappear, of course, with the evaporation of the volatile substance. M. Henry's invention consists in adding to the volatile spirit some substance which, as the spirit evaporates, will remain fixed, at the same time that it retains the properties of the spirit pellicle. For this purpose he employs bitumen, or resins of certain kinds, dissolving them in turpentine, and allowing a drop of the solution to fall on water. The solution spreads, as turpentine alone would do, but, as the turpentine evaporates, a thin permanent film of resin is left, which exhibits the iridescent colors of the original liquid. This permanent film is then taken up on paper, to which it gives a beautiful iridescence. Either black or white paper may be employed, the former giving greater brilliancy, and the latter greater softness. While the liquid solution is spreading over the paper, the colors may be artificially modified, by blowing on the film, or by whistling near it, or in other ways, and these variations will be perpetuated in the finished work. It will occur to the scientific man that there might be a possibility of producing such variations by the action of colored light, as is done by the Lippmann process on a film of bromide of silver and gelatine, and experiments are likely to take that direction.

GERMAN CASTLES.¹—XII.

INTERIORS.—GOTHIC HALLS.

THE most beautiful Gothic hall in Germany is the Chapter Hall of the Knights Templars, in Marienburg. This imposing room, however, is excluded from our descriptions because of its character as a religious building, these papers being restricted to domestic architecture. In lieu of this Chapter Hall, the Knights' Hall of the

the distant Saxon Mark, is brooding over his ideas of a new manner of construction, and tries carrying them out (1471-83). The hill was a fortress first of all, then a church mount, or the bishop's seat and cathedral; so there was not much room left for a palace. Notwithstanding, he undertakes the building of one, and manages, moreover, to have the rooms in it of a spaciousness that comes up to the then impending foreign (Renaissance) fashion, in point of breadth, while it surpasses most rooms of the Renaissance, in Germany, in the

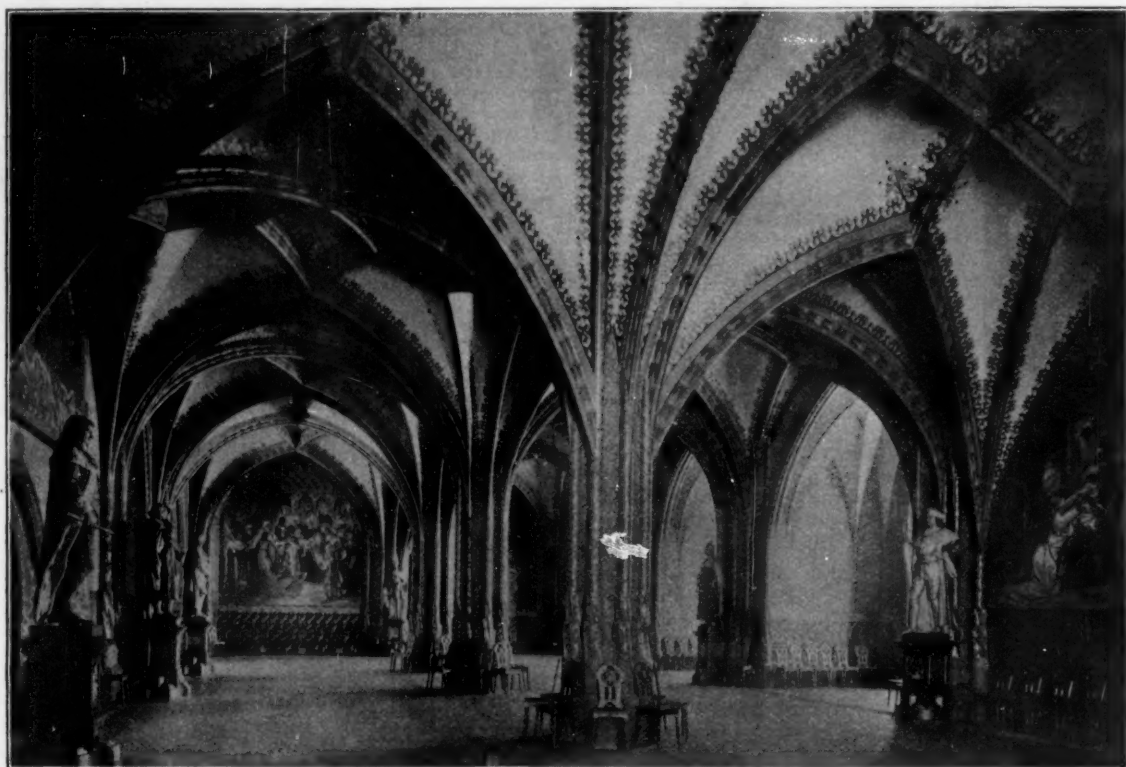


Fig. 82. The Knights' Hall of the Albrechtsburg, Meissen, Saxony.

Albrechtsburg, in Meissen, which stands next to that in Marienburg, in the estimation of native art historians, has been chosen for illustration (Fig. 82).

This celebrated burg was one of the first outposts of the Teutons against the aboriginal Wends and heathens of the Slavic north, of what is now Germany, just as that of Marienburg was one of the latest. Albrechtsburg was not the seat of a religious order, however, but of ecclesiastical princes, and the home of the Saxon *Herzöge*, or Dukes, of the Albertine line.

Their court was held here, on a grand scale, up to the sixteenth century; after which it was neglected as a residence, for the Dresden and Torgau castles; at first by degrees, but then almost permanently. The Elector of Saxony, Augustus the Strong, who spent so many millions on other castles, passed the Albrechtsburg by, his architectural tastes running in other and more sumptuous lines; and, the sense of piety for mediæval monuments of art being totally wanting in the prodigal livers-in-the-present of his *insouciant* court, not a voice of remonstrance was lifted to chide his finally turning the old burg into a porcelain manufactory. For it was in this renowned castle that the Elector caused Böttger, the inventor of European porcelain, to be shut up with his assistants, crucibles and ovens, in 1710; and from its strong doors thereafter went forth the graceful "china," that carried the name of Saxon's capital to the furthest corners of European markets down to the year after the Franco-German War, in 1870-71.

Of the indemnity paid by the French after this war to the German States a portion fell to King John of Saxony. And this scholarly prince expended much of the money in transforming the porcelain factory into a new building, and then restoring the ancient castle to its original form.

The Albrechtsburg is remarkable in two particulars: for being the first German castle in which the rooms were so disposed as to open into one another, and for the variety in its arched ceilings.

The architect was a Westphalian, Arnold Bestürming by name, commonly called "Master Arnold," a man of some genius, but without a history, the only records that speak of him being this castle and the bits of copyings from it which reappear in buildings up and down Saxony, and in the Gothic or fifteenth-century portion of the Royal Castle in Berlin. While Columbus is brooding in Spain over his pet idea of a new way to India, Arnold, on this old hill in

matter of height. In fact, Arnold is a man, in spirit, of the new revolutionary period, although working still along the general lines of the old order. See in this Knights' Hall what freedom he takes with the ancient rules of construction. There are the deep window alcoves, for instance, all of which are formed by the buttresses being drawn *inside* the wall! Then the ceiling here, as in all the other rooms, is the sheerest product of fancy, rather than of the *Bauhütte*; the arrises of the groins in the vaulting are ribbed or not ribbed, without precedent or rule; the bases of the columns, too, must look for their like. Besides, the whole structure of the vaulting is a mere frame; the lines of the true ceiling are not the same as these in any particular. The groined vaulting is, in fact, like a tent spread within the hall, whose solid and massive substance lies concealed behind it.



Fig. 83. A Room in the Albrechtsburg.

Yet what practical mind will not approve of these innovations, when it is remembered they were made for a dwelling. The indrawing of the buttresses diminishes the extent of wall exposed to the damp and cold of the weather; and the spreading of the ceiling

¹ Continued from No. 1147, page 97.

under the roof, like a canopy apart, leaving an abundant space of air between the two, serves as an aid in the retention of heat.

This question of heating rooms appears to have grown more and more important in Germany as the habits of life grew more sedentary and the destruction of the great tracts of forest land altered the climate for the worse. In another hundred years sensitiveness on this point appears to have grown so tormenting that there is hardly any hesitation left in having the handsomest rooms made low, so as to render them heatable.

At this period, 1450-1500 A. D., braziers were still the only things used for heating halls (although stoves had been invented); and who can say but that Master Arnold's taking the subject of heating into consideration may not have influenced him in adopting the new form of wall-construction?

His practical bent of mind is exhibited in several other matters of domestic concern. The bases of his columns are made to have plain surfaces, for instance, and to avoid indentations which would form hollows for dirt to collect in. These bases are now surrounded by chairs. And chairs are placed likewise along the walls of the window alcoves, where generally benches are found (*vid.* Fig. 83 for a

have been left very much to do what he liked. And if he had liked to introduce tracery into the decoration of the castle hall he would have found everything at hand, down to the very masons to hew it; for right on the castle hill, at the front entrance to the castle, was the cathedral, with its century-old examples of decorative sculptures and mason-guild.

Not to tracery but to coloring, the hall owes its comeliness. The pictures seen in the illustrations are naturally quite other designs than the original ones. They consist now of scenes in old Saxon history; whereas originally the wall-spaces which they occupy were left free for tapestries, or were more simply tinted, with designs that were alike innocent of perspective and of archaeological accuracy. For the rest, columns and vaulting share profusely in the wealth of gay color, as the illustration shows. The sculptured effigies of the Margraves of Saxony—the same Margraves that once trod this hall and took part in the rough festivities that crowded it,—these too are colored, and stand on their pedestals against the indrawn buttresses of the wall, in domestic garb—not in the coats-of-mail which English taste is fond of setting up in similar halls.

The Gothic hall was a hall for feasting in. It could likewise be



Fig. 84. Fireplace in the Albrechtsburg.

specimen of *nosed* benches in this castle. It may be remarked, in passing, that the treads of the winding-stairs in this castle are also *nosed*). But benches were seats of a subordinate order, and the social jealousy of the time and place led to their being excluded from a room devoted to the meetings of equals. A sense of the practical is seen, furthermore, in Master Arnold's consistent splaying of the jambs of doorways, and in his omission of posts and vaulting-shafts. Not only in this hall, but throughout the three stories of the burg, the room walls are left plain as high as is necessary for wainscoting or furniture, and the columns without capitals. The groins of the vaulting are made to spring out of the wall abruptly, moreover, as a rule, without any of the ornamentations that delight the architect but trouble the tidy housewife.

The Master could hardly have built more practically and hygienically. There are few protuberances in his interiors to perform their hateful office as dust-collectors; and this is true, although he wrought in a style still which proffered details in an abundance that had never been reached before, and has never been surpassed later. Possibly he was prevented from indulging in designing finials and the like by want of means. The notion, however, does not find any substantiation in the contemporary documents. Arnold seems to

called a reception-hall, for it served the lord of the castle as such; but old German custom turned every gathering of company into an eating and drinking bout, even the briefest. To this day, in country palaces in Germany, guests are received in the *Saal*, or hall, are seated in groups therein, served with coffee and cake, then with fruits or creams, and, finally, to a full meal, which the servants of the household "build up," as the saying is, right under the guests' eyes, upon a long table or two. Most hosts undertake to contrive to draw their guests into adjoining rooms or into the alcoves of the hall while the tables are being spread. But the manœuvre is seldom completely successful. A few remain to survey the field of future onslaught and count the dishes. After the meal the table is removed, and the floor being thus cleared again, dancing begins.

Dancing begins in German halls nowadays after eating. Was it because *slumbering* began after drinking, in Gothic days, that the halls of that date possess, on the whole, such poor and scanty means of lighting? Had drunkenness to go before large candelabra came in? It is not accidental that the Albrechtsburg Hall is left devoid of conspicuous coronas, I fancy, but on purpose? The typical domestic Gothic hall is without them. The candelabra of the period are decidedly insignificant affairs, when compared with those of a

somewhat later date. A favorite sort was composed of iron wrought into finials and crockets: a design which probably led to the idea of using antlers for candlesticks, the branches and end of the antlers affording a simple form of points on which to stick the tall lights. Brass was combined with iron; and even enamels were applied to give color and beauty to these objects.

For the rest, the interior of Gothic halls resembles the exterior in the matter of spreading decoration about equally everywhere. The doors are low and more invariably single-leafed than arched, to illustrate which fact Figure No. 84, representing another room in Albrechtsburg, has been selected for show. The dais and singers' or heralds' gallery is a little less conspicuous than in Romanesque halls, but these still compose stationary and component parts of the room.

L. V. KROCKOW.

FIFTY YEARS OF UNIONISM: A RETROSPECT.

BECAUSE there is no question in which enlightened and humane men take more interest than the means by which the lot of the laboring man of any craft can be bettered, and as every man has an interest in every great contest undertaken by organized Labor—whether it be a strike of railroad or telegraphic operators or makers of brick or workers in iron, we make no apology for reprinting at length from *Engineering* the following interesting parallel between the great engineering strikes of 1897 and 1851:—

In matters of business, manufacturers are apt to envy their predecessors, and to think that they knew nothing of the worries which prevail now. During the last few months we have heard engineers speak of the "old unionism" as if it were a beneficent institution which they would gladly take to their bosoms and cherish like a venerable and respected relative. They seemed to think that it represented only the spirit of thrift, and that if it could be revived peace and prosperity would reign in their establishments; in the new unionism—that of to-day—they can find no redeeming feature.

The fact is that the old unionism, like the good old times, owes its reputation to the softening effect of time, which wipes off men's minds the scars and scratches received in the struggle of life, leaving a level surface of pleasant aspect. Unionism as represented by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers is the same to-day that it was fifty years ago; with this difference, that it has grown with the general expansion of trade, and, perhaps, even a little faster. We have before us, as we write, a manifesto, dated December 24, 1851, "From the Members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Machinists, etc., to their Employers." It commences:—

"Gentlemen.—The Executive Council of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Machinists, Millwrights, Smiths, and Pattern-Makers wish to address a few observations to you upon the practices of Piecework and Overtime, which they have come to a resolution to abolish. The Executive Council, in taking this course, have not the slightest intention of unwarrantably interfering with or attempting to dictate to employers. They have only in view the performance of their duty as the guardians of the interests of the members, and the organ through which the voice of the trade expresses itself, and they trust that what they have to say will be interpreted in the amicable spirit which animates them."

Then follow the usual arguments against overtime and piecework, as being injurious to health, encroaching upon leisure, interfering with intellectual and moral growth, and leading to expensive and badly finished work. The document ends by saying that the Council have advised the trade to discontinue systematic overtime and piecework after December 31, 1851, overtime only to be worked in case of breakdowns and accidents, and to be paid for at the rate of double time. As between this example of the old unionism and that of the present day there is not much to choose. Its style reminds us of the elegant highwayman of the Claude Duval type, who, after telling the traveller to deliver in a way that left no room for hesitation, reasoned with him sweetly on the virtue of charity. The Union secretaries of the present day generally put their arguments first and keep the ultimatum for the last paragraph; but the meaning is just the same.

The document from which we have quoted was an incident in a long dispute between the manufacturing engineers and their workmen, extending over the year 1851, and eventuating, in 1852, in a great lock-out, which inflicted on the Union the severest defeat it ever had. The circumstances were so exactly similar to those we are now passing through that it is worth while to recall them, not only to show that we are no worse situated than were our fathers in the good old times but also to demonstrate that, while a genuine federation of employers is invincible, unionism possesses an inherent elasticity and power of recuperation which enables it to survive defeat and to reassemble its forces in a wonderful way.

During the latter part of 1850 and the early part of 1851 there were frequent disputes at several Lancashire works not only regarding overtime but also on the machine question; the men also demanded the discharge of a certain foreman by Messrs. Hibbert & Platt, of Oldham. The action was taken under Rule XXIII of the Union, the first section of which denounced overtime, while the second read as follows:—

"That the same steps be taken to abolish piecework, to destroy the practice of working more than one lathe or machine, to prevent a greater number of apprentices or admissions into our trade than are likely to find employment therein . . . to assimilate the number of working hours in each district, so that, if circumstances require, a further reduction of the hours of labor may be accomplished."

The italics are ours and show that the machine question is not as new as some people think. Three years before, the secretary of the Society had written to a firm, saying: "It has been represented to us . . . that certain persons are employed as engine-fitters in your manufactory who have not served a legal apprenticeship to the trade. This practice, most of your workmen employed there think, would be abolished if you were made acquainted with it, and so also does the Committee; as we feel sure you will see the injustice of employing or training up men to a business, when others who have spent a portion of their lives serving an apprenticeship, with the hope of getting a livelihood thereby, are now in want of employ." Evidently the "shop steward" was as vigilant then as now, although in this instance he put his objections in a very mild manner.

In February, 1851, and again in May, Mr. W. Newton, the general secretary of the Society, went to Oldham to try and arrange matters. Personally he was a man of moderate views, but the members were spoiling for a fight, and when he effected a compromise with the employers on the machine question, they rejected it. The secretary was supported by the Executive Council, who passed a resolution in 1851 that the offer of Mr. Platt ought to be accepted. The men, however, were insubordinate, and came out on strike in July, but, as the Council refused to support them, they resumed work in a few days. Although the battle was being fought at one works only, the Lancashire members of the Union were deeply interested in it. Labor imagined itself about to enter into new conditions; the French Revolution of 1848 had stirred the masses, while the writings of Louis Blanc were eagerly read and discussed, and the time seemed ripe for putting his ideas into action. Whatever may have been the views of the Executive Council, they found themselves unable to enforce a moderate line, and accordingly, like men of greater reputation than themselves, they decided to put themselves at the head of the movement they could not prevent.

In the meantime the masters were taking alarm. They found that they were losing control of their own shops, and that there was the prospect of their being attacked and beaten in detail. Meetings were held both in Lancashire and London, and a Federation was formed, pledged to act in concert. On December 17, 1851, the employers sent an advertisement to the *Times*, signed by thirty-four firms, stating their intention to lock out their men, in certain eventualities, on January 10, 1852. On December 24, a great meeting was held at the London Coffee House, at which were present, among others, Mr. Joshua Field, Mr. Fairbairn, Mr. Hibbert, Mr. John Blyth, Mr. John Seaward, Mr. Bryan Donkin, Jr., Mr. Richard Ravenhill, Mr. Joel Spiller, Mr. Thomas Maudslay, Mr. George Bovill, Mr. John Penn, Mr. Samuda, Mr. Whitworth, Mr. Platt, Mr. Scott Russell, Mr. George Rennie, and Mr. C. E. Amos. The secretary explained that "a body of persons styling themselves the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Millwrights, Mechanics, etc.," had made the following demands to the employers of Manchester and the district, accompanied by a threat to one of the principal firms that, unless they were acceded to, the workpeople would strike on the 31st. The demands were:—

1. The abolition of overtime except in case of breakdown.
2. The payment for necessary overtime at double rates.
3. The abolition of the system of piecework.
4. The unconditional discharge of all laborers or such class of persons engaged in working planing machines, or tools of similar character, and the employment in their stead of mechanics, members of the Union.

The secretary also read another communication, dating from 25 Little Alie Street, Whitechapel, notifying to the employers in the metropolis the abolition of piecework and overtime. Mr. Sharp, speaking on behalf of the Manchester district, said it was a general complaint that the masters could not obtain a fair day's work for a fair day's wages, and that there was no way of crushing the Union's system except by a total cessation of business. Mr. Hibbert stated that the Amalgamated Society, which a few months before did not number 5,000 members, then reached upwards of 15,000. "He read"—we are quoting from the *Morning Advertiser*—"some passages from the *Operative*, the organ of the Union, advocating Socialist doctrines with regard to labor, and the most violent principles in reference to industrial employment, and observed that from this it was apparent that the present requisitions were only the beginning of much more intolerable exactions. The operations of the combination were rapidly spreading over the Kingdom, and the next meeting was to be in Glasgow, in order to bring the Scotch into the movement. Such organization could only be met by union on the part of the masters." There were other speeches in the same tone, but we have quoted enough to show how completely history is repeating itself.

It is curious to note how exact is the parallel between that time and the present. Labor had recently won a great advance by the repeal of the Combination Laws, and this produced the same feeling of exultation which lately prevailed from the adoption, by the Government, of the eight-hour system, and from the passage of the Fair Wages Clause by the House of Commons, the London County Council, and numerous corporations. The Amalgamated Society had obtained a great accession of members as the result of an energetic missionary movement, in which suasion of a very forcible kind had been freely employed, and its funds had attained to hitherto unknown figures. Simultaneously there came the preaching of Socialism, with its promise of equality to all men, irrespective of talent and industry;

just as now we have the new Socialism, which aims at the capture of the means of production and at "taking Capital by the throat." Like circumstances brought like results. Prudence was thrown to the winds, and in place of the slow, but sure, progress aimed at by the wiser unionists, an attempt was made to gain all at a bound. The Executive Council of the Society wrote: "If our recommendations are adhered to, and our members are active and energetic in all their trade proceedings, we shall soon still further improve our condition, and make our Society the real ruler of the destinies of the trade." The attempt to rule the trade was made in 1851, just as it has been made during the past year, and it provoked a counter-burst of feeling on the part of the masters, which demonstrated the unexpected fact that Capital can combine more effectually than Labor, when sufficiently pressed.

The rest of the tale is soon told. On January 1, 1852, the working engineers in London left work at the end of the normal day, thus cutting off overtime. On the 3d, lock-out notices were posted, to take effect on the 10th, and on that day the doors were closed against 3,500 engineers, 1,500 skilled workmen, and 10,000 laborers. There was no attempt to discriminate between union and non-union labor, and, indeed, the masters did not know which of the men were members of the Union and which were not. On the 12th the committee of the Employers' Association met and passed a resolution, which, at the present moment when the Conference is apparently at a deadlock, is most interesting. It was:—

"That the only basis on which the members of this Association will consent to resume their avocations is:—

"1. The undoubted and unrestricted right of every laboring man in this free Kingdom to follow any honest calling in which the employers may desire to engage him.

"2. The unquestionable prerogative of every employer to make what arrangements and engage what workman he pleases on whatever terms they choose mutually to agree.

"3. The imperative necessity of providing such securities for the full accomplishment and permanent establishment of these conditions as shall frustrate all attempts of self-constituted and irresponsible bodies, by intimidation, conspiracy, and dictation, to weaken the right of employers, or the independent privileges of labor."

The Association of Employers also issued "to their workmen and the mechanics of Great Britain and Ireland" a defence of their attitude. The copy before us is not dated, but probably it was published at the commencement of the lock-out. It began by stating that the masters were acting in defence of themselves and of their "well-disposed workmen," and that they would not re-engage any man who did not sign a declaration that he was not and would not be a unionist, or follow unionist practices. We have not space to deal with the rest of the pamphlet, which is chiefly devoted to exposing the tyranny exercised by the Society men over the free laborers, citing instances in which the dismissal of machine men had been demanded, and non-union men had been persecuted and driven from shop to shop. The battle, however, was not to be won by manifestoes or arguments. During January, February, and March the men stood firmly together, but the allowance had to be reduced from 15s. 6d. to 10s. per week. On March 30th the Lancashire men asked the employers to receive a deputation, for the Executive had virtually given up the contest. The employers refused to receive the deputation, and replied that they could not consent to any compromise. No one need apply for employment who was not ready to sign a document forswearing the Union, and all its works. Early in April the shops were opened, and the men trooped back sadder and wiser for their experience. The Union did not formally withdraw its demands, and neither did it accept the masters' terms. Each man signed for himself, with as much or as little mental reservation as he chose.

At the end the Union was in the dust. Depleted of money and abandoned by its members, it was to all appearance "smashed." The cost of the struggle was officially given as 35,459l. 0s. 9d., but was estimated by others at 42,000l. The total expenses for all purposes in the first half of 1852 amounted to 50,888l. 12s. 2d. The balance in hand on January 1, 1852, was 21,705l. 5s., and at the end of June 1,721l. 0s. 11d. But, curiously, the roll of members was not reduced as one would have expected, from the numbers signing the declaration. On January 1, 1852, it included 11,829 names, and on June 30th, 11,617. But after that there was a decline, and by the end of the year there were only 9,737 members; it was two years before the previous total was regained.

We wonder how many members of the Council of the Amalgamated Society are acquainted with the facts we have related. Probably very few, although doubtless they are all to be found in their own archives. The study of history is not attractive to the popular leader, who has nothing to gain by acquiring a reputation for caution and discretion. Equally, or even more, unknown are they to the generality of masters for whose benefit we have recalled them. We have traced, step by step, the parallel between the disputes of 1852 and 1897, and we have shown that the two ran on exactly similar lines. The second is not yet ended, and there is still time to apply the lessons of the first. We are now in a critical stage of the negotiations. As the official account shows, the masters have maintained a very firm attitude, and they have made no real concessions to the demands of the men. The object of the Federation is that aimed at by the Amalgamated Society in 1851—to become "the real ruler of the destinies of the trade." One or the other party must occupy this position. It is impossible that its duties and responsibilities can be divided between two bodies

with such divergent aims as the Federation and the Union. Some of the organs of the press talk as if the situation were to be solved by compromise, and that it was the duty of employers to buy peace by concessions. There are occasions when it is right to follow such a method, but it is only people who are woefully or purposely ignorant who think this to be one of them. The prosperity of this great country is bound up with the destinies of the engineering trade, and its future depends greatly on the hands which guide those destinies. As the masters put it in their manifesto which ends the account of the negotiations, it is they that know the conditions of trade, the state of foreign markets, and the real progress of other industrial nations. Necessarily the Union leaders have only the most imperfect acquaintance with such matters; be they ever so observant and studious, they can only gain a theoretical knowledge of markets and prices. As a matter of fact, they are kept far too busy with the affairs of their societies to find time for the study of current industrial politics. To allow them a share in directing the destinies of the trade is like requiring the captain of a ship to take counsel with the purser when the navigation becomes difficult.

Great pressure is being put on the Federation to reduce its demands, which are denounced as "a war on unionism." But they may all be summed up in the phrase, "a fair day's work for a fair day's wage." If it be warring on unionism to demand that, the sooner the flag is publicly nailed to the mast the better. The conditions laid down are just those which every educated man accepts as equitable when seeking a berth, namely, that he shall make the best terms he can with his employer, and that when he has done so he shall honestly exert himself to fulfil his duties. It is not now asked, as it was in 1852, that the men shall leave the Union. They may still subscribe to its funds, and when they find themselves unable to agree with their employers, they may invoke its aid to maintain their cause before the district association of the Federation, and, as a last appeal, the whole strength of the Society may be pitted against the Federation itself. The legitimate objects of the Union are left practically untouched. It is only their immoral practices for making work costly that are to be stopped. In regard to this we are amazed to see newspapers which pride themselves on the austerity of their virtue upholding the cause of unions which deliberately prevent their members from working at an ordinary and natural rate. It is not such a course that adds to the happiness or welfare of the individual man. There is nothing more irksome than dawdling the time away, with constant glances at the lagging clock that seems scarcely to move. The man minding one machine on daywork goes home more exhausted than the pieceworker, for he has undergone nine hours of ennui, which could only be combated by reducing his mind to a condition of inanition. For the sake of finding a job for another member of the Society, he has injured himself, defrauded his master, and hampered the trade of the country. It will not be until unionism has purged itself of such practices as these that its friends can consistently advocate its claims for benevolent consideration.

But to return to our historic parallel. In 1852 the masters announced their terms, and did not recede in the least. The result was that the men accepted them. We see that Mr. John Burns has foreshadowed something of the same kind now, for he suggests that the strike shall be withdrawn, and each man left to apply for work on his own initiative. It matters little whether the end comes this way, or by formal terms of surrender at the Westminster Palace Hotel. No doubt it is pleasant for a victor to hear his antagonist acknowledge his defeat, but it is far more important to secure the fruits of a victory. It must be remembered that a treaty signed, sealed, and delivered by a beaten foe only binds him as long as he feels unable to contest the matter again by force of arms. This is particularly true in the case of a trade-union, which has no legal existence, and of which the constitution is liable to be altered at any time. In 1852 the Amalgamated Society was formally abjured by many of its members, but in 1855 it was as strong as ever, and it had not abated one jot of its aspirations. But where was the Employers' Association? It had perished of atrophy, and the units of which it was composed had reverted to their usual attitude of selfish isolation. The result was that the old plan of fighting employers in detail was successfully revived, obtaining its most important result about 1872, when the nine-hour day was obtained on the Tyne, and the movement then spread like a flood over the Kingdom. Is history going to repeat itself now in this particular? We hope not. There is only one certain assurance of safety in the industrial world: "The strong man armed keepeth his goods in peace." The unionists know this, and they never relax their vigilance. For fifty years they have kept the same object in view, and have crept nearer and nearer to it, never allowing either victory or defeat to divert their attention from the goal. In 1851 they snatched at the prize, and missed it, and the same thing has happened again. They will try a third time, if the employers again disband their forces, and it is possible that on that occasion history may not repeat itself.

COPPERING SANDSTONE.—A curious piece of work is in process on the Minot Building, Nos. 105-113 Devonshire Street, corner of Spring Lane. On the front of the building there are numerous belt-courses of red sandstone which, in the course of time, have become disintegrated on the surface. To prevent further deterioration, which would eventually lead to the necessity of removing the stone and replacing it with new, it is being carefully veneered with sheet copper, and so skillfully is the work done that the metal is as smooth as though it were the thickness of paper and had been pasted upon the stone. — *Boston Herald.*



THE BURNING OF THE COLOSSEUM AND THE QUADRANGLE CLUB-HOUSE.—PROPOSED EXHIBITION BUILDING ON THE LAKE FRONT.—THE YEAR'S WORK.—THE BUILDING RECORD OF THE LAST DECADE.—THE ARCHITECTS' LICENSE.

THE close of the year was signalized by fires which demolished two structures of prominence, the great Colosseum and the Quadrangle Club-house of the Chicago University. The Colosseum, designed by Mr. S. S. Beman, was the big structure in the southern part of the city, in which the Democratic Convention was held when Mr. Bryan made his famous "cross of gold" speech, which procured for him his nomination for the presidency. The building had been an ill-starred one from the start. In August of 1895 the structure collapsed while every effort was being made to finish it to accommodate the Barnum & Bailey Circus, which had an engagement in Chicago a month later. Fortunately this first collapse occurred at the one time in the twenty-four hours when the six hundred workmen were out of the building, just at the time when there was a rest between the night and day gangs. There were only three men in the building at the time of this accident, and as they were at the far end no one was injured. The collapse was a serious one, and the building a complete wreck. The large trusses of the roof were not only torn down but twisted around one another, and pulling down the walls as they did, a huge mass twenty feet high was formed of debris. Expert engineers who examined the ruins seemed to agree that the steel was good, and that as far as they could see nothing was amiss in the design either of the architect or engineer. A large amount of green lumber had been piled on the roof, and some thought this weight too great for the building in its unfinished state.

At the time of the late fire the conditions were not so favorable for avoiding loss of life, but as if by a miracle almost every one escaped from the building. A Winter Fair was being held in the building, but, fortunately, it had been closed at 5.30 for supper, so no one but the several hundred exhibitors was in the building at the time of the fire, which occurred about six o'clock. Investigation seems to have demonstrated that the fire originated from electric wires; but whatever may have been its origin, it took only twenty minutes for the entire building to be consumed. The building was not considered to be of such inflammable construction, and though valued at \$350,000 was only insured for \$120,000. The fire burned most fiercely, running along the so-called fireproof paint of the roof and inside work as if it were so much kerosene-soaked wood. The floor, partitions and roof seemed all ablaze at the same time, and the planks which were loosened from the roof fell downward, adding fresh fuel to the flames. As soon as the girders fell they brought portions of the side walls with them. The fire started in the northeast corner, and spread south and westward. The chief structural feature was fourteen enormous trusses, the apex of each being 70 feet above the ground, and having a span of 230 feet in the clear. The building fronted on Sixty-third Street, 8 feet back from the thoroughfare, this space being utilized for the approach. A gallery 35 feet wide encircled the interior at a height of about 30 feet from the floor. The arena was said to be only equalled in extent by that of the Roman Colosseum.

The matter of rebuilding the structure seems not absolutely certain, though certain reports have it that the rebuilding is an assured fact and that bids are about to be opened.

The home of the Quadrangle Club, the other building mentioned as having been destroyed by fire, was connected with the Chicago University. Its past history was somewhat similar to the Colosseum inasmuch as it was before threatened with destruction, having been partially burned a few weeks after its completion, while again last August it sustained damage from fire amounting to \$4,000. It would seem as if there must have been something essentially wrong in the plan of lighting or heating, or chimney construction. The club-house was before mentioned in these letters as being of the idealized Colonial style, the style which in its origin was dictated by necessity rather than choice. With its furniture it was valued at \$35,000, and, like its ill-starred neighbor, which went up in smoke the night before, it was only partially insured. It has been stated, however, by the president of the Club, that the building will be rebuilt, finer and larger than before. It certainly would not be difficult to create a more beautiful building than the one destroyed by fire.

Apres of the destruction of the Colosseum, the scheme for erecting a large exhibition-building and convention-hall on the Lake Front has been urged by those most interested in the matter. The idea would be to erect a building to cost between one and two millions of dollars and to make it such an architectural feature that the opposition of those who are not in favor of building on the Lake Front would be weakened. By placing such a structure at the northern end of the Lake Front, where numerous old rookeries have

been, it is hoped that opposition could be changed into actual co-operation. Some of the projectors have favored the site at the northern end, while those who have gone into the scheme in the most businesslike way have advocated the placing of the structure beyond the present Illinois Central tracks, on made land which shall extend to the breakwater. A meeting was held by the South Park Commissioners and three members of the Chicago Commercial Association to discuss the matter. The proposition submitted to the Park Board was chiefly as follows:—

"We propose to organize a corporation to be known as the Chicago Commercial Exposition Company, capital stock \$1,500,000, full paid-up and non-assessable.

"We propose to erect on the Lake Front Park on the following described site, beginning at the south line of Jackson Boulevard, south to the north line of Congress Street, beginning at the east line of the Illinois Central Railway Company's right-of-way running east to the breakwater, dimensions to be some nine hundred by thirteen hundred feet, more or less, free of rentals and taxes, a building or group of buildings, to be used for exposition and other public purposes, of architectural beauty, design, and finish, interior and exterior, second to none in the world. Plans and specifications to be hereafter submitted.

"After the construction of said building or buildings and the equipment of same, and full payment thereof and the accumulative interest of 6 per cent be paid the shareholders in said corporation, and the original investment of the shareholders shall cease. Then the said property shall be under the control of a board of five or more trustees, viz: the South Park Commissioners, or such other trustees as may be deemed advisable—our idea being to allay any thought that this enterprise is for private gain in any event. It is, however, agreed that this property be perpetuated for public uses forever.

"After paying all expenses for maintaining the said property, the surplus revenue is to be expended for the benefit of the people of Chicago in such manner as your Board of Trustees may deem wisest, provided, however, the legal requirements in respect thereof be obtained."

Those interested in the plan talk, through the papers, as if it were a certainty, while the majority of people look upon it as rather a vague scheme, which there was only an uncertain chance of ever realizing.

It certainly would make a very beautiful feature for the lower part of Michigan Avenue, if properly handled, and will be a plan which will be watched with much interest. Some of the property-owners still maintain a stubborn attitude relative to the erection of the buildings on the city grounds. But so far as cutting off the view of the Lake from Michigan Avenue itself it is immaterial, as, from the street level, it is already cut off by the slope of the land up towards the top of the wall which is built at the west of the Illinois Central tracks. In the meantime two actual building schemes are being discussed: one is that of erecting one large structure which should be adapted to all purposes; the other plan is to build a group of three buildings, connected with peristyles. The central one would be large enough for any possible convention purposes, while the smaller side hall should be adequate for ordinary exhibition purposes.

As the year 1897 closes and the papers make up the summary of the past twelve months they try to put the most cheerful aspect on what has been the dulllest year in real-estate and architectural circles for a long time here in Chicago. Matters, it is to be hoped, and it is expected, will improve during the coming year, for nothing could be more death-like than the state which has existed for the last six months. A few large buildings have been erected in the down-town district, the chief one being that for the "Fair," the large department-store. This could hardly be called a product of this year in the statistical sense of the word, for plans for this structure, which has already been discussed in these letters, were made several years ago, and, in fact, part of it was erected. Several large structures have been built in the wholesale district, but as the total only amounts to \$800,000, the expenditure is insignificant as compared with former years. The published building statistics show an expenditure of \$21,777,230 for the year 1897, against a cost of \$22,730,615 for 1896. This is not so much of a difference as one would have expected, but plans for many of these buildings were, doubtlessly, started in 1896, and what has been most apparent this year has been the actual absence of any scheme for any speculative purpose. A few people, if they could scrape the money together, would have put up a barn or added a bay-window, provided they wanted the barn or window very badly; but, so far as any actual building projects have been concerned, there have been none.

The comparison of the years since 1887 is as follows:—

Year.	Buildings.	Feet Frontage.	Cost.
1888	4,982	116,419	\$20,360,800
1889	4,931	119,573	25,065,500
1890	11,608	266,284	47,332,100
1891	11,905	282,672	54,201,800
1892	13,194	327,573	64,740,800
1893	8,359	216,836	28,708,750
1894	9,836	232,030	33,805,670
1895	8,633	218,369	35,010,043
1896	6,444	158,846	22,730,615
1897	5,294	129,222	21,777,230

The license law passed at the last session of the Legislature is supposed, since the first of January, to be in effect. The architects

throughout the State have pretty generally taken out their licenses, but a good many so-called architects in the city have ignored the new requirements. These will, doubtlessly later, be subject to the examination and will be required to pay an additional amount for the license.

ILLUSTRATIONS

[Contributors of drawings are requested to send also plans and a full and adequate description of the buildings, including a statement of cost.]

NEWTON CORNER M. E. CHURCH, NEWTON, MASS. MESSRS. CRAM, WENTWORTH & GOODHUE, ARCHITECTS, BOSTON, MASS.

[Gelatin Print, issued with the International and Imperial Editions only.]

COMPETITIVE DESIGN FOR WORCESTER COUNTY COURT-HOUSE, WORCESTER, MASS. MESSRS. EARLE & FISHER, ARCHITECTS, WORCESTER, MASS.

THIS competition was decided some weeks since in favor of Messrs. Andrews, Jaques & Rantoul, of Boston. The special interest in the competition lies in the fact that the programme called for the preservation, and inclusion in the new design, of the Classic portion of the existing court-house, the result being that there was more of a family likeness between the several designs submitted than is usually the case. Of this design the expert adviser, Prof. H. Langford Warren, reported as follows:—

"No. 1 is perhaps to be placed next [third] in order of merit, although distinctly inferior to No. 6 and No. 5. It has the attractive feature of a central top-lighted court, in which are the staircases. The plan is ingenious and the offices are well placed, but a great deal of room is wasted in corridors, and the two great offices of the Registries of Deeds and of Probate would be inadequately lighted, in spite of the light court. The District Attorney's office and the unassigned rooms on either side of it, having windows only on the light court underneath the projecting second-story corridor, would be very dark rooms. The County Commissioners' room, the Indexing room, under the portico, and the Register of Deeds' private office would also be poorly lighted. The same is to be said of the office of the Clerk-of-courts, in the second story. The front windows, high under the portico, would give very poor light, which would not be sufficiently compensated by the windows on the court. Here, however, top light might be introduced, and may have been intended. The façade is dignified, and would be more so if the attic over the central motive were removed. It overweights the design and by its height would seriously interfere with the effectiveness of any skylights over the offices. This feature is both practically and æsthetically objectionable. But for this defect the façade would be one of the most dignified and impressive of all."

COMPETITIVE DESIGN FOR WORCESTER COUNTY COURT-HOUSE, WORCESTER, MASS. MESSRS. FULLER, DELANO & FROST, ARCHITECTS, WORCESTER, MASS.

PROFESSOR WARREN'S comments upon this design are as follows:—

"No. 2 has a dignified façade with a well-marked central feature, but the front is too much cut up for the best effects and the three main masses are too nearly equal in size. The plan, on the other hand, is radically defective in some essential particulars. The Registry of Probate, one of the most important offices of the building, is poorly lighted, its width, 54 feet, being too great to be lighted on one side only. The Registry of Deeds, for a similar reason, suffers through one quarter of its area being insufficiently lighted. The same criticism of lack of light is to be made of the County Treasurer's and County Commissioners' offices, and also of the Probate Court, with its three irregularly placed windows on one side only. The irregularity of the front, already criticised, makes all the offices along the front of unfortunately irregular shape. The building has three entrances on the front, and from this and other dispositions of the plan it results that an unnecessary amount of space is taken up by corridors. The present Civil-Court room is given to the Criminal Court, which brings it into convenient relation to the District Attorney's office, below. But this position of the court leaves no opportunity to isolate it from the rest of the building. The position of the rooms for the bar in both courts is objectionable. The staircases and the courts and offices on the second floor are well placed and the general disposition of the plan is at any rate simple and architectural. The plan provides for an extra court-room on the second floor."

COMPETITIVE DESIGN FOR WORCESTER COUNTY COURT-HOUSE, WORCESTER, MASS. MR. L. W. BRIGGS, ARCHITECT, WORCESTER, MASS.

The expert's report contains the following comments upon this design:—

"No. 7, again, has three entrances and is objectionable in that too

much dependence is placed for light on two wells 25 feet wide, from one of which light is taken for one side of the Registry of Deeds, which is so placed that the other side would be darkened by the Antiquarian Building so long as that stands. A large unassigned office on the first floor is also lighted by two windows on one of the light courts placed on one side of the room toward one end, so that the other end would be quite dark. The County Commissioners' room is of inconvenient shape. The Registry of Probate is placed at the rear, too far from the street. The design has an ineffectively placed dome, which would only be seen from the stairs and the entrance to the Law Library, and it is too much cut off from the main corridor. The Clerk-of-courts, at rear, is inadequately lighted. In connection with the Criminal Court, the officers' room is not well placed, and the plan is so arranged that the prisoners have to be brought into court through the jury-room corridor. Exteriorly the dome is poorly designed and ineffective; but the design, at any rate, is simple and straightforward. The Law Library, which occupies the central portion of the front in the second story, is a splendidly lighted room of dignified proportions."

[The following named illustrations may be found by reference to our advertising pages.]

COTTAGES FOR W. H. CROCKER, ESQ., NEAR MISSION GARDENS, SANTA BARBARA, CAL.: TWO PLATES. MR. A. PAGE BROWN, ARCHITECT.

A GROUP OF STAIRCASES.

[Additional Illustrations in the International Edition.]

DETAIL OF NEWTON CORNER M. E. CHURCH, NEWTON, MASS. MESSRS. CRAM, WENTWORTH & GOODHUE, ARCHITECTS, BOSTON, MASS.

[Gelatin Print.]

PFARRHAUS (PARSONAGE), POTSDAM, PRUSSIA. L. VON TIEDEMANN, ARCHITECT: TWO PLATES.

[Gelatin Prints.]

This parsonage forms part of a group of buildings erected during 1895 for a Reformatory institution for boys, founded by King Frederick William IV, of Prussia, and Queen Elizabeth. The building, of which our plates show, respectively, the street and garden fronts, contains the family residence of the clergyman in charge of the Reformatory, also a school-room for the religious instruction of the pupils, for whom a separate entrance is provided on the side of the house facing the garden. The cost of the parsonage is \$12,000, this being equivalent to a rate of \$3.72 per square foot, or \$0.10 per cubic foot.

CASTLE KEEP, REIGATE, ENG. MR. ERNEST RÜNTZ, ARCHITECT.

BILLIARD ENTRANCE HALL: CASTLE KEEP, REIGATE, ENG. MR. ERNEST RÜNTZ, ARCHITECT.

COMMUNICATIONS

[The editors cannot pay attention to demands of correspondents who forget to give their names and addresses as guaranty of good faith; nor do they hold themselves responsible for opinions expressed by their correspondents.]

WHAT ARE THE LARGEST INTERIORS?

NEW YORK, N. Y., January 5, 1898.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT:—

Dear Sirs,—I am desirous of obtaining information regarding the twelve largest interiors in America. I would take it as a favor if you could give us some information on this subject. So far I have: Metropolitan Opera-house and Madison Square Garden, New York, N. Y.; The Colosseum, Chicago, Ill.; Music Hall, Cincinnati, O.; Mechanics' Building, Boston, Mass.; Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah. Very sincerely yours, WALTER E. WOODBURY.

CHURCH BUILT FROM A SINGLE TREE.—One of the largest churches in Santa Rosa, a city in Sonoma County (Cal.) of about 7,000 inhabitants, was entirely built, including inside finish in wood instead of plaster, from a single redwood tree; and in addition to building the church over 60,000 shingles were taken from the same tree.—N. Y. Evening Post.

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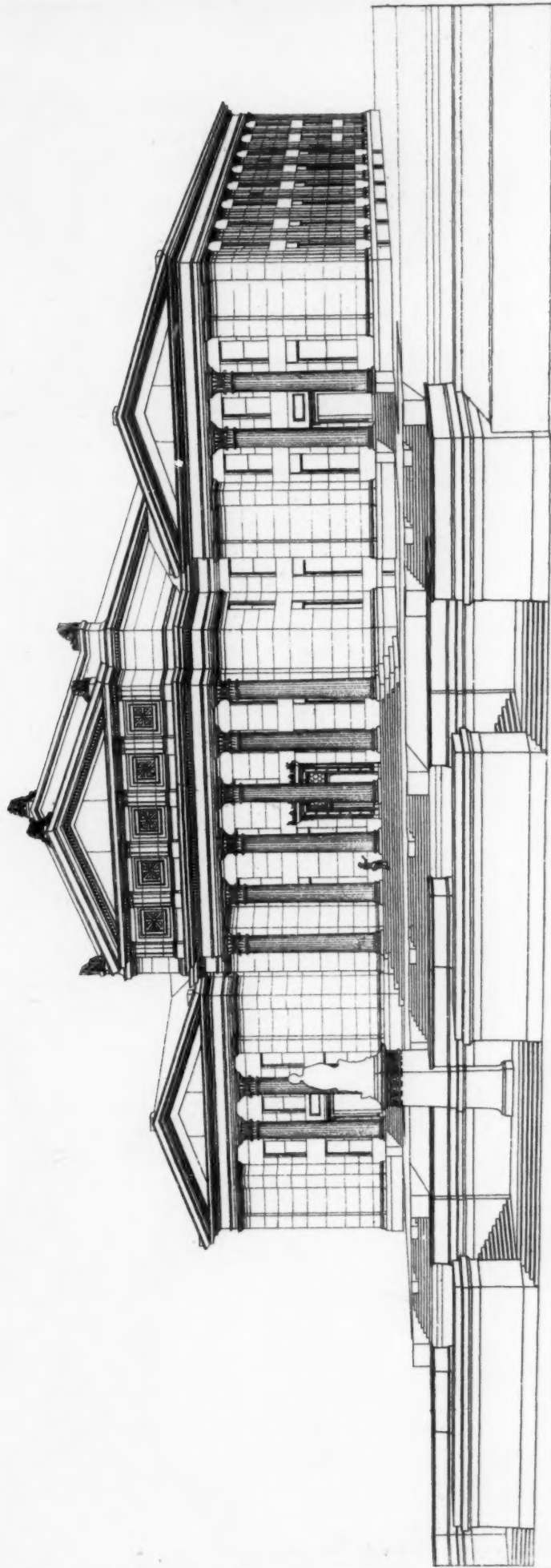
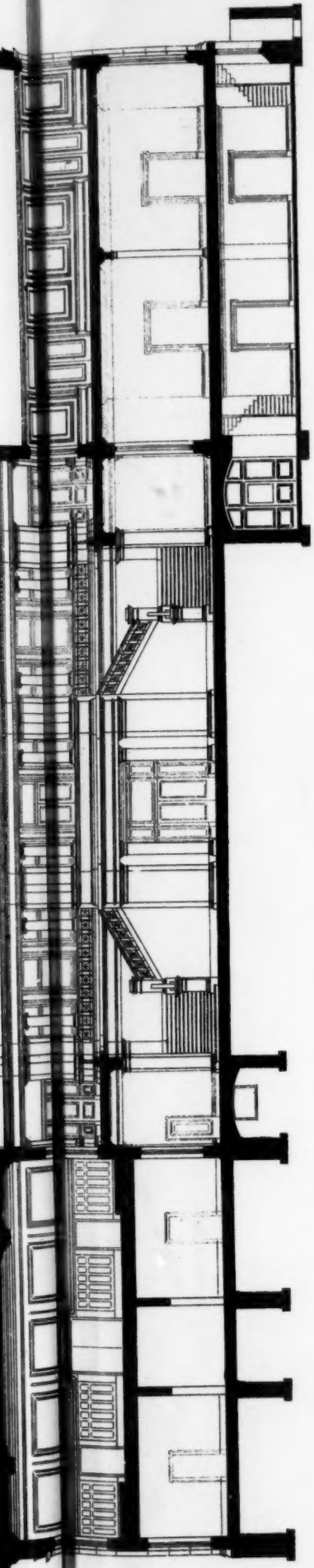
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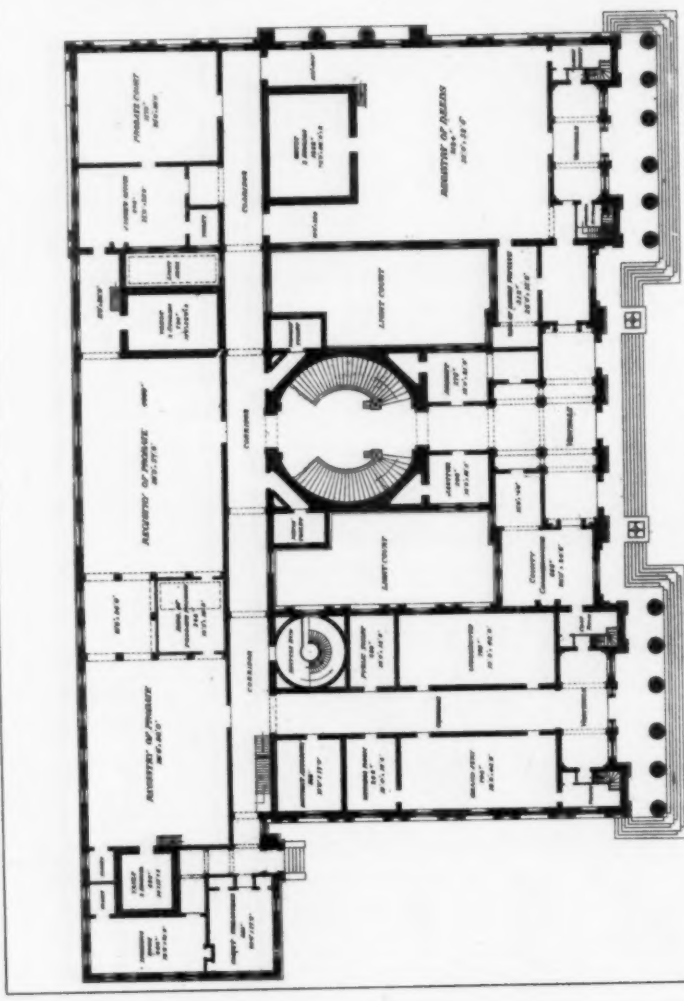


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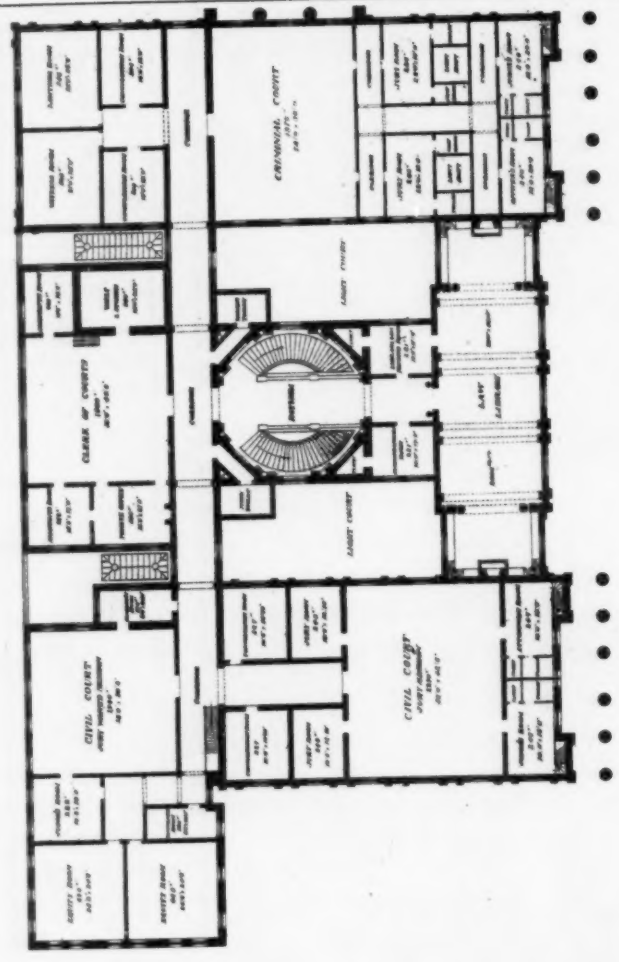
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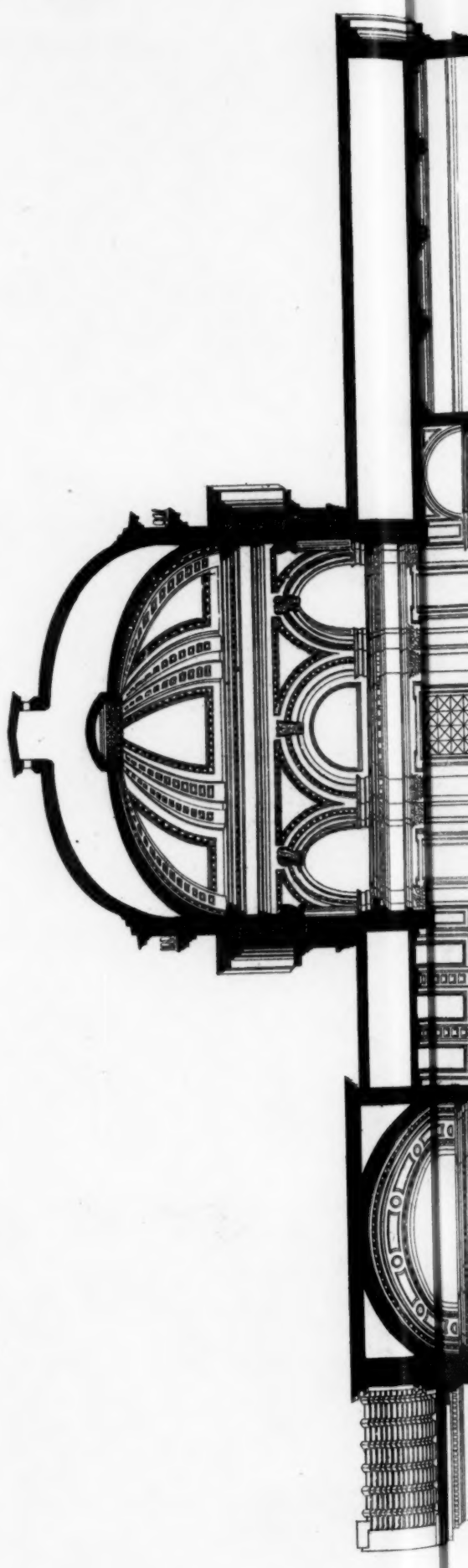
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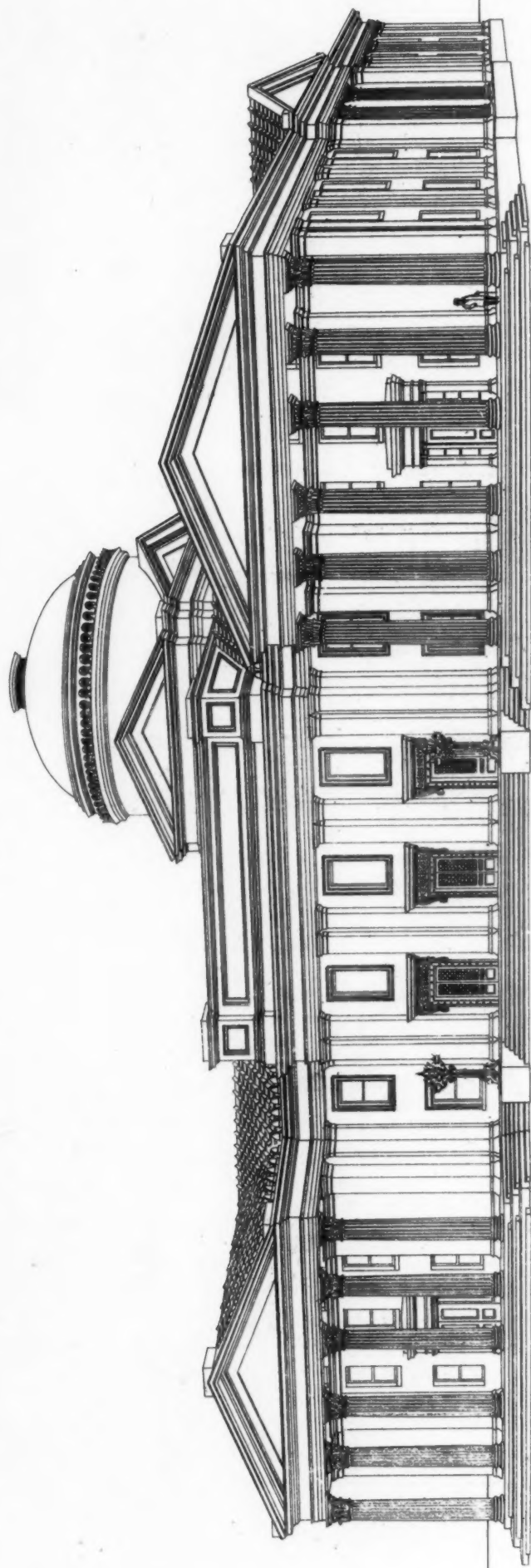
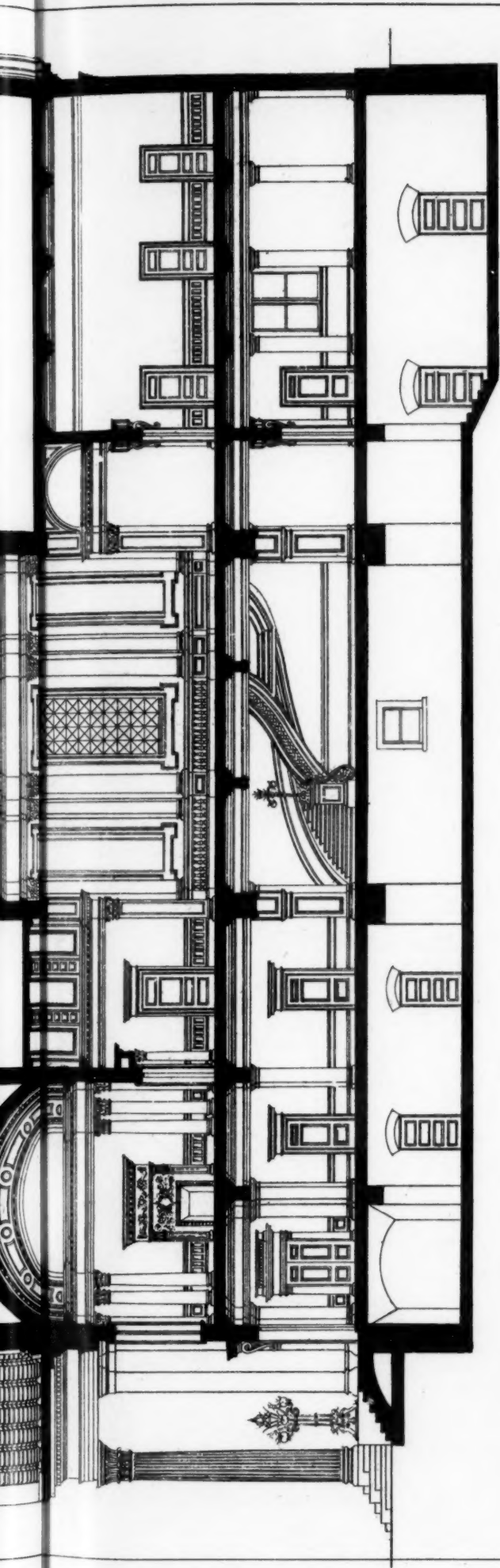


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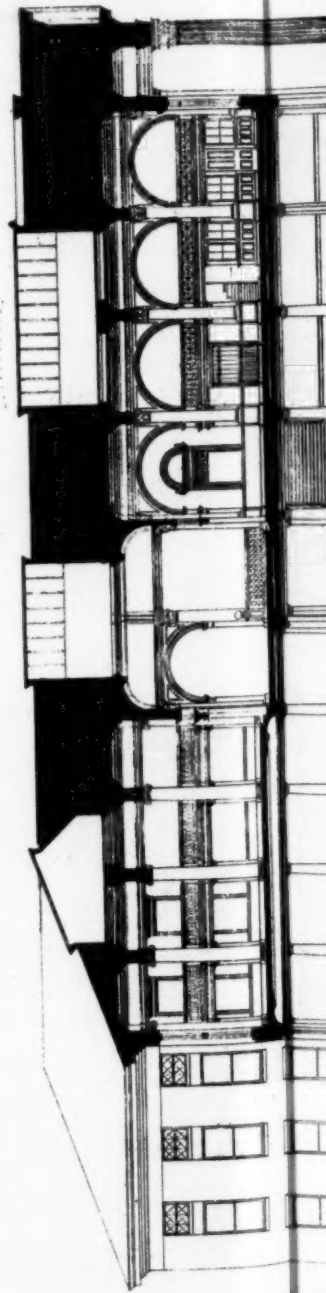
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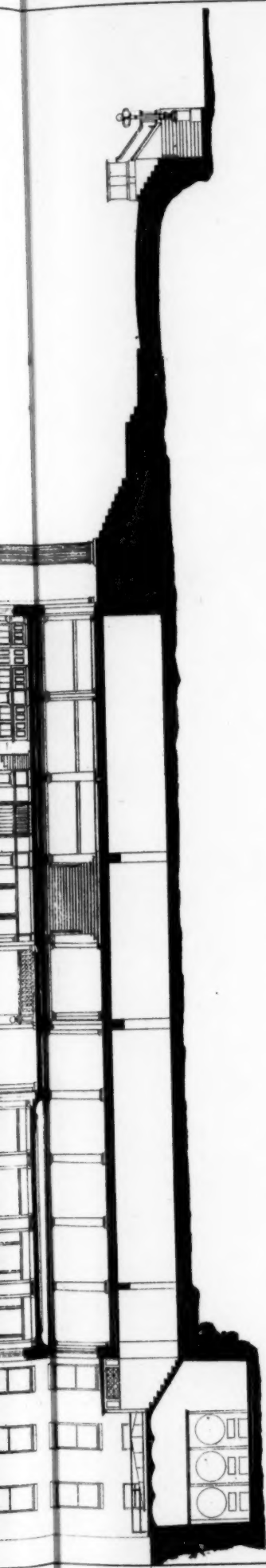




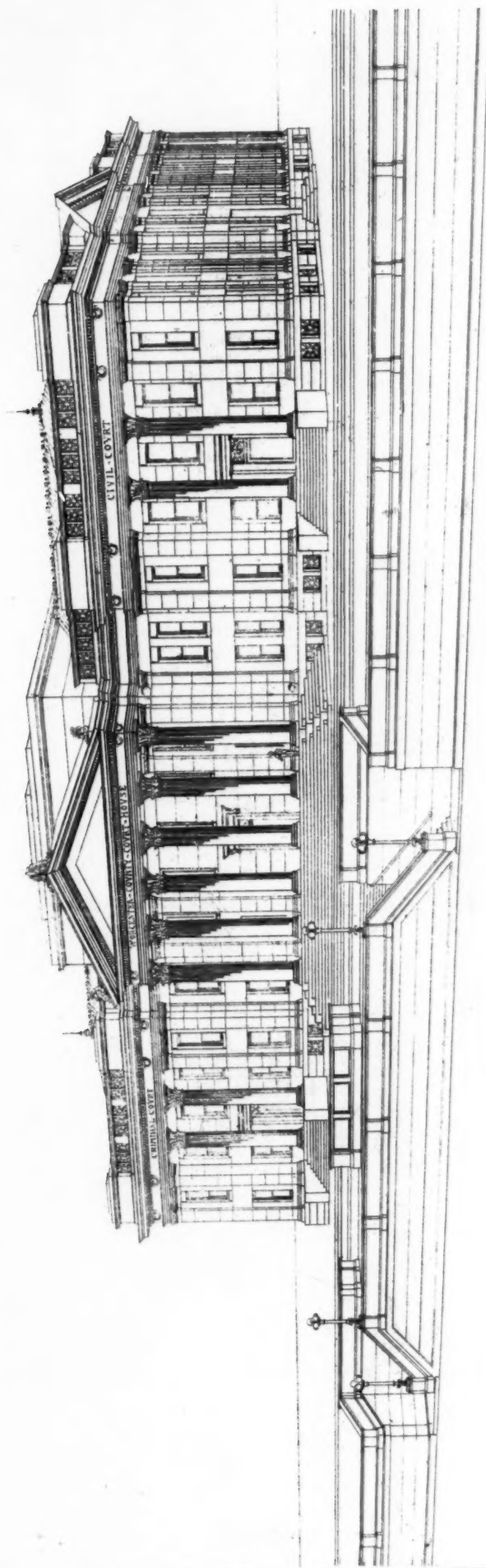
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