

manager's room, and a large passage leading to Twenty-eighth Street (the other dressing-rooms are above the stage). There are eight boxes, a balcony, and a gallery extending well forward.

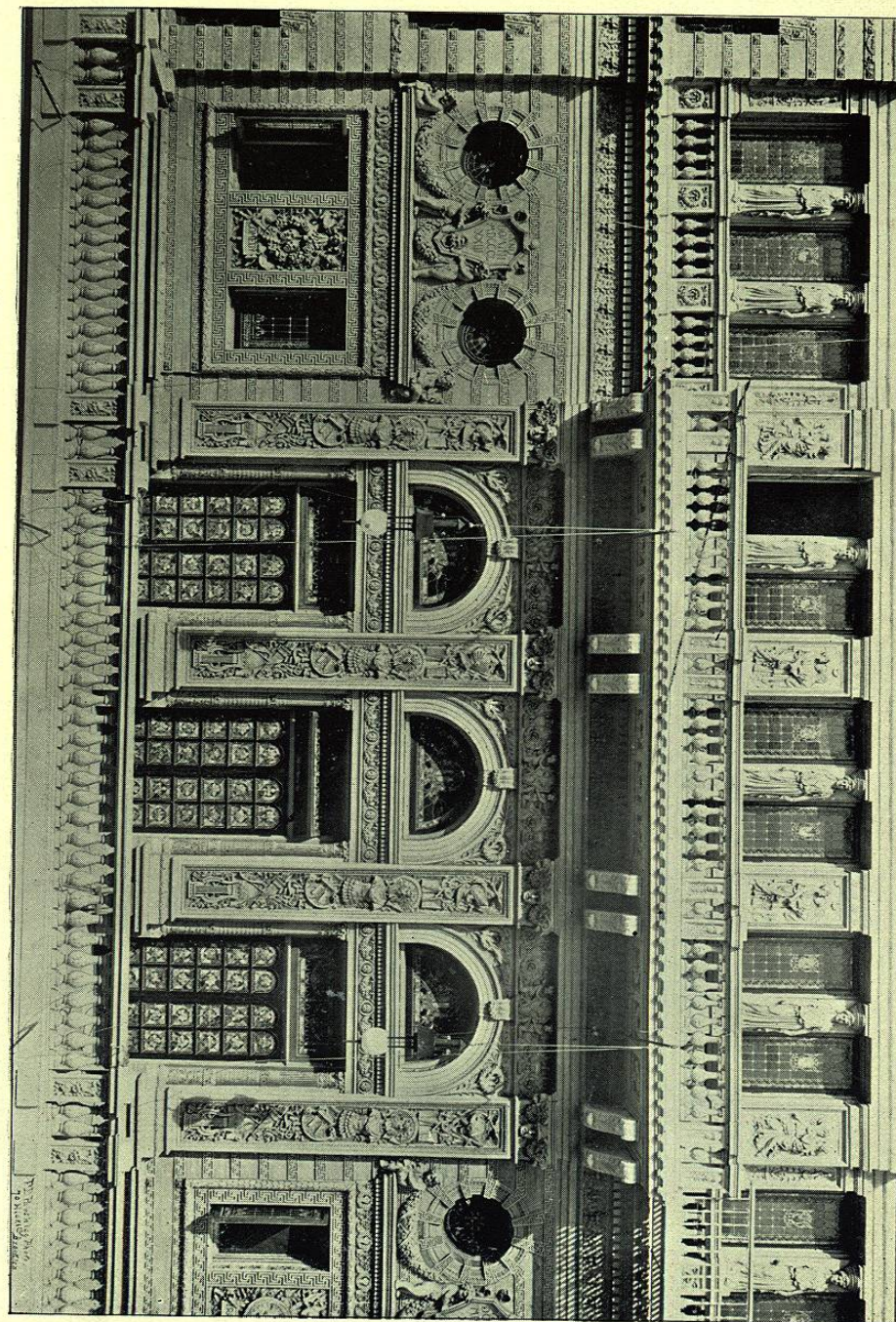
The auditorium is 68 feet wide by 64 feet deep and 65 feet to the dome.

The stage is also entered upon the right through an open court, containing fire-escapes, and balconies built of iron, which extend to the upper tiers and in case of emergency are used as exits leading to Broadway through a wide passage. The theatre is fully equipped with approved fire-apparatus, the construction throughout is of iron and steel with Guastavino arches in the floors, and the building is lighted by electricity.

As in the old system of lighting a stage by gas a gas-plate was needed, with the taps labelled as to the portion of the system they governed, so for the electric system a switchboard is used, containing all the necessary switches, cut-outs, and other fittings for the control and regulation of the stage-lighting. This switchboard is fixed in a convenient position overlooking the stage, and is accessible only to the person employed to operate it.

The entire scenery has been treated by the "Martin Process" of fireproofing, a description of which will be given later on.

DETAIL OF TWENTY-EIGHTH STREET FRONT, FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.



THE AMERICAN THEATRE.

The American Theatre, situated on the southeast corner of Eighth Avenue and West Forty-second Street, New York City, as designed and constructed by Charles C. Haight, architect, presents to us an example of the newest of the great places of amusements in which New York delights.

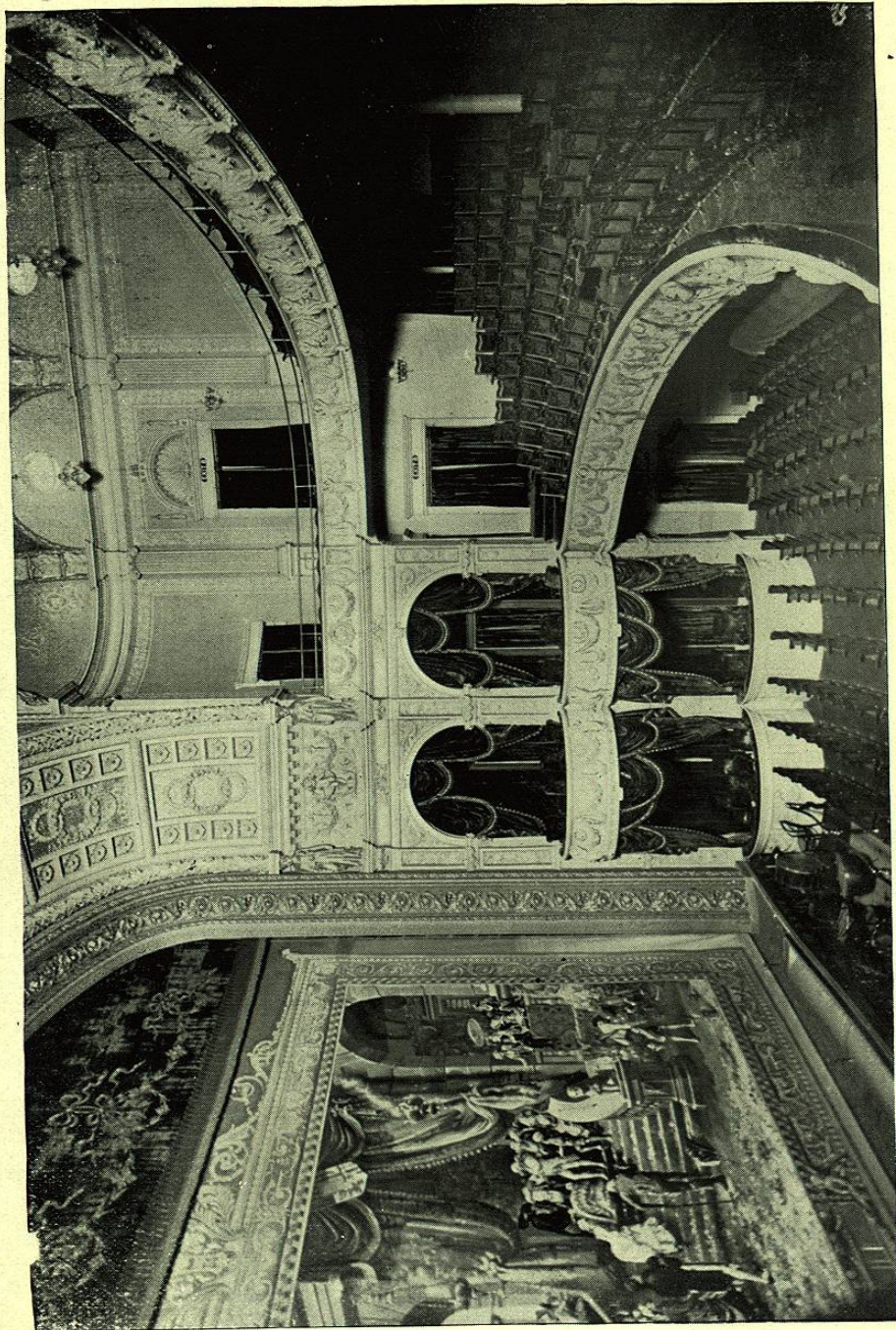
It was opened for the first time in 1893, and attained at once great popularity.

The theatre proper covers a plot of ground 100 feet by 98 feet 9 inches, with three fronts upon three different streets. The photo-plate shows the Forty-first Street front with entrances to the foyer, balcony, gallery, and stage. The other two fronts face Eighth Avenue and Forty-second Street respectively, and are used also as entrances to the foyer. The Forty-second Street entrance contains stairways leading to balcony and gallery. The architecture of the exterior is simple and effective, showing at once that the design has been well studied, and carried out with neatness and precision.

In the decoration of the auditorium and throughout the interior of other portions of the building the same taste has been exercised as in the front, the colors of which are in warm tints.

In the construction of the auditorium particular care has been taken to provide a system by which each spectator commands a good view of the performers.

Some of the important provisions for the safety of the public against fire are wide and easy staircases, large outside fire-escapes, open courts, and an abundance of exit doors; fire-extinguishers, fire-curtain, and skylights constructed to fly open automatically. Iron and concrete enter largely into the entire construction of the building.



VIEW OF BOXES, CURTAIN, AND PROSCENIUM ARCH, FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.