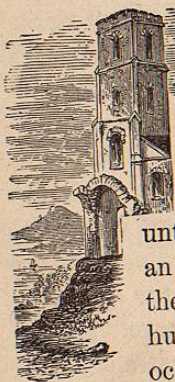


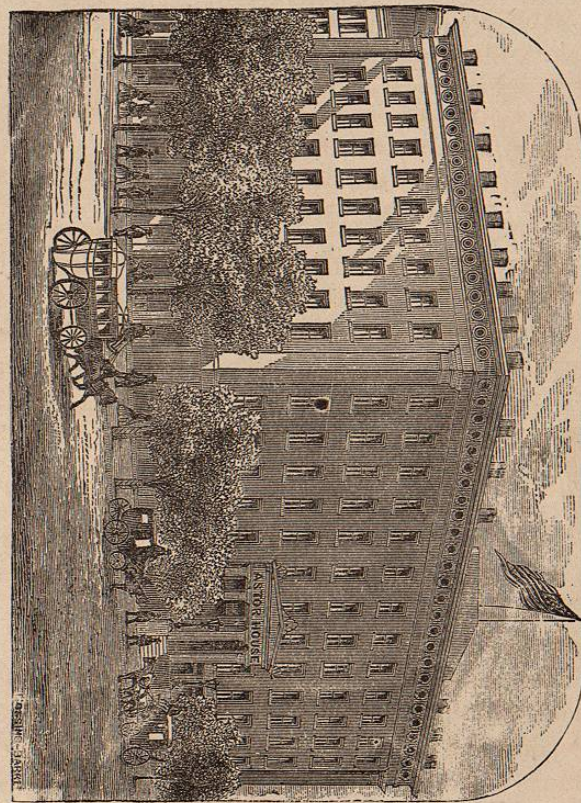
IV.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF MANHATTAN.

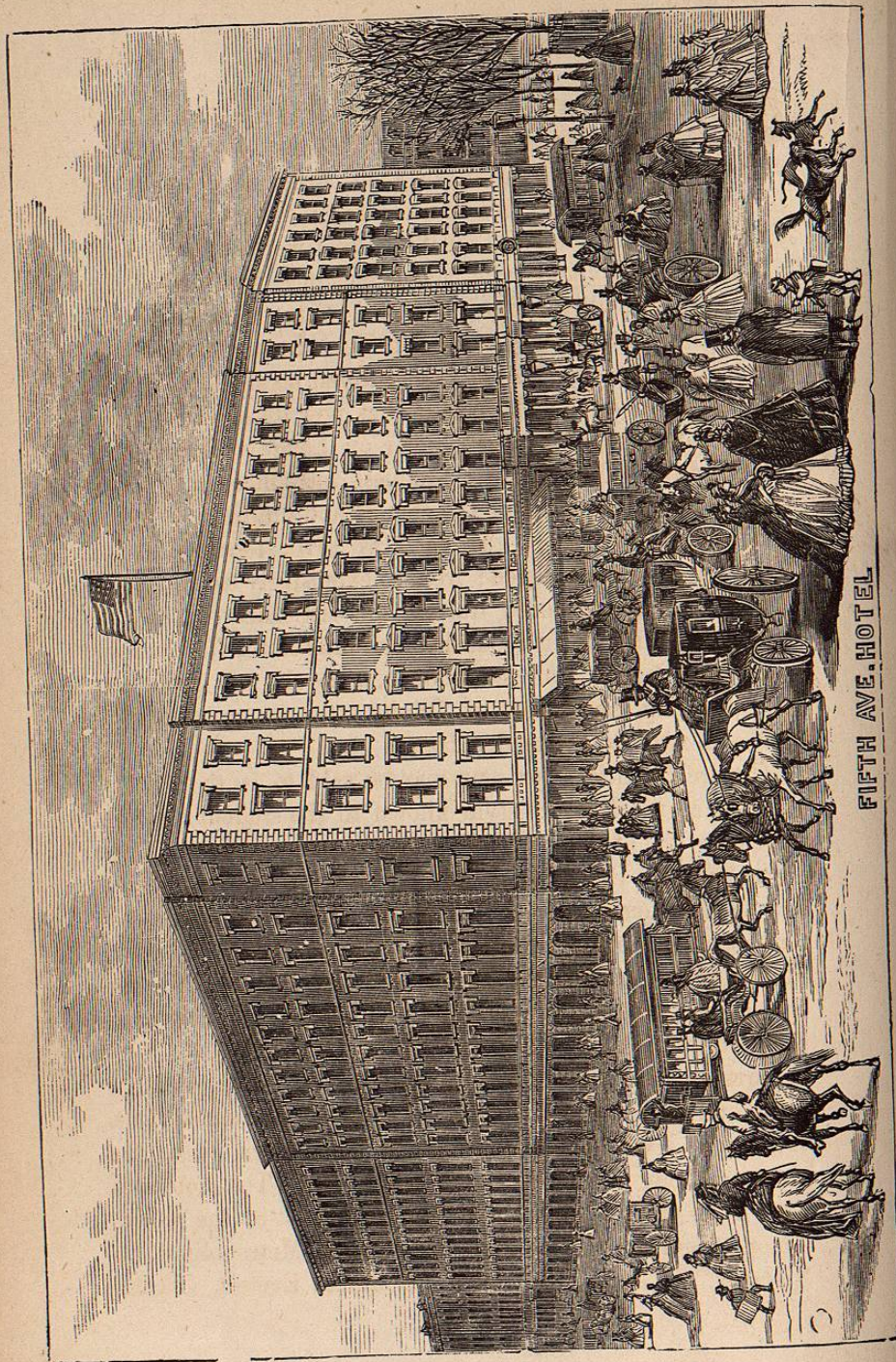
HOTELS, ASTOR HOUSE—FIFTH AVENUE—ST. NICHOLAS—GRAND CENTRAL—COOPER INSTITUTE—ACADEMY OF DESIGN—THEATERS—AMERICAN BIBLE HOUSE—PUBLISHING HOUSES—THE PARK BANK LIFE INSURANCE BUILDINGS—CITY HALL—NEW YORK COURT-HOUSE—NEW YORK POST-OFFICE—STORES: A. T. STEWART'S—CLAFLIN'S—LORD & TAYLOR'S—TIFFANY & CO.—NUMBER OF BUILDINGS.



THE architecture of Manhattan has greatly varied in the different periods of its history. As in all new settlements where timber abounds, the first buildings were constructed of logs. Indeed, nothing else appears to have been employed until 1647, when the first stone house was finished, an event of such transcendent importance, that the generous Dutch celebrated it by drinking one hundred and twenty-eight gallons of liquor on the occasion. During the first forty years after the settlement of Manhattan, the old Holland style of architecture entirely prevailed. Some of these buildings had narrow foundations, with high peaked roofs; others were broader at their base, one, and sometimes two stories high; the gables, which always faced the streets, were sometimes of brick, but oftener of shingles rounded at the end. Many of the roofs were bevelled, projecting at the eaves sufficiently to shelter a small regiment of troops. The gutters of many of the houses extended to near the centre of the streets, to the great annoyance of travelers in rainy weather. The front entrance was usually ornamented with a high wooden porch called a *stoop*, where the women spent the shady part of the day.



ASTOR HOUSE—Broadway, Barclay and Vesey Streets.



The more important buildings such as the "*Stuyvesant Huys*," near the water edge, now Moore and Front streets, and the "*Stadt-Huys*" or City Hall, on Pearl street, were set in the foreground, to be more readily seen from the river and bay. The first buildings erected on Wall street were block-houses.

But if this Holland style lacked elegance, it possessed the merit of durability. One in a fine state of preservation taken down in 1827, was marked 1698, and many after standing more than one hundred years showed no signs of decay. The last of these Knickerbockers has now disappeared from Manhattan, though they still linger on Long Island, and up the Hudson. The English conquest introduced a greater variety, which has continued to change and multiply its forms until the present time. As early as 1670, stone and brick were principally employed; iron, so extensively used at present, has been introduced during the last thirty years. A builder in Water street, about the beginning of the Revolution, exchanged leaden sash for wooden, a novelty too great for the times, for the trustees of Trinity after the great fire of 1778 still retained the leaden frame.

The architecture at present may be said to be thoroughly eclectic, as nearly every style known to the student may be found, several at times blending, in the same edifice. Trinity church on Broadway, is of the Gothic; St. George's in Stuyvesant square, of the Byzantine; St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal, on Fourth avenue, is of the Romanesque; the City Hall is of the Italian; the Tombs of the Egyptian; while the Synagogues present the Moresque, and the distinctive form of the Hebrew style.

HOTELS.—The hotels form an important part of every large town, and in many instances one of their chief attractions. What would Clifton, or Saratoga, or New York be to the great traveling public, without their hotels. The hotels of New York rank among the largest and finest in the world. Among them may be mentioned the Astor, Metropolitan, St. Nicholas, St. James, St. Cloud, Hoffman, Everett, Claren-

don, New York, Fifth Avenue, Grand Central, Gilsey, and a hundred more, many of which are of equal notoriety.



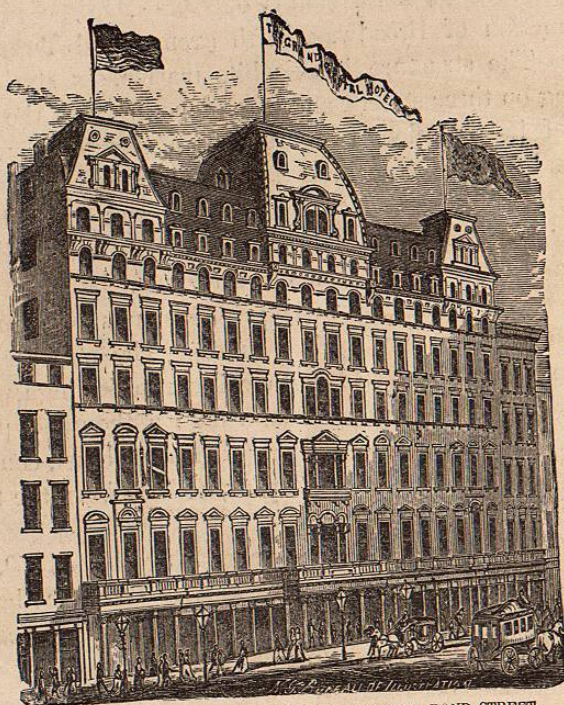
FIFTH AVENUE HOTEL.

THE ASTOR HOUSE was erected in 1836, by John Jacob Astor, then the richest man in America. It is a six-story granite, on Broadway, overlooking the City Hall Park, and covers the spot where Mr. Astor resided during most of his business life. The front extends across a narrow block, and the building affords accommodations for six hundred guests. Architecture on Manhattan has so decidedly improved since its erection, that its glory has long since departed. Its exterior appears sombre and heavy, its windows are small and unadorned, no balcony or colonnade tempts the inmates into public view, and its single massive entrance is not really inviting. Under the management of the Stetsons it has, however, long ranked among the very first hotels of America.

FIFTH AVENUE hotel stands opposite Madison square, at the junction of Broadway, Fifth avenue, and Twenty-third street. The structure is of white marble, six stories high, fronting on three streets, and after devoting, as is the custom, most of its first floor to stores, has accommodations for a thousand guests. It is beautifully located and forms a rich center of fashion and speculation. It was erected and is still owned by Mr. Amos R. Eno, formerly a New-England youth and the architect of his own fortune.

THE ST. NICHOLAS, opened in 1854, stands on Broadway, between Broome and Spring streets. The structure is of white marble and brown freestone, is six stories high, with six hundred rooms, and can accommodate a thousand persons. The St. Nicholas is also a richly furnished hotel, conducted on the American or full-board plan, and has been the theater of many brilliant occasions.

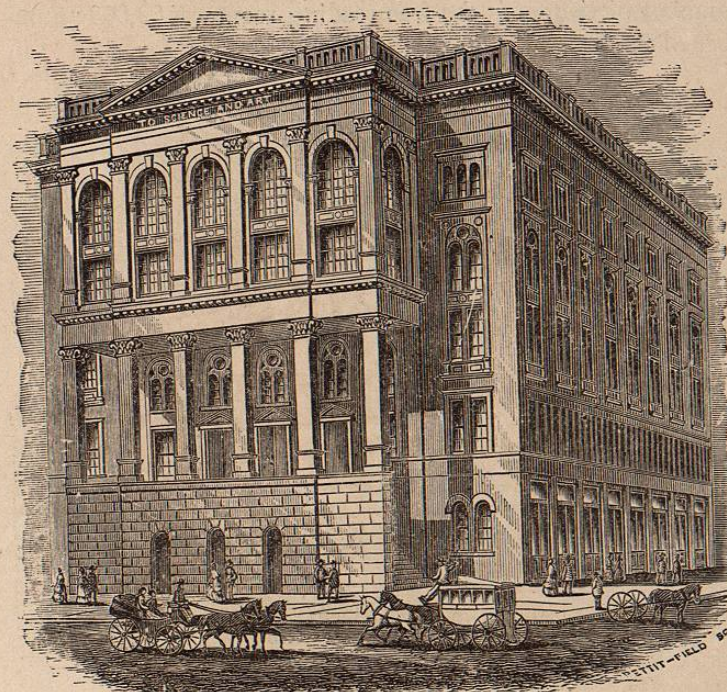
THE GRAND CENTRAL hotel, opened August 24, 1870, is the largest in the United States. It stands on Broadway between Amity and Bleecker streets, with a frontage of 175 feet, and extends to Mercer street, being 200 feet in depth. It covers the ground once occupied by the Lafarge House, afterwards the Southern Hotel and the Winter Garden Theatre. The edifice is constructed of brick and marble, is ten stories high, and covers fourteen full lots, for some of which Mr. Higgins paid eighty-three thousand dollars apiece. The dining-room affords space for 600 persons to sit at table at once; the plate and furniture are magnificent, costing half a million, and the arrangements for observation, health, and comfort, the most exquisite. The building is 127 feet high at the cornice, which is surmounted by a heavy Mansard roof, the top of the flag-staff being 197 feet above the pavement. Thirty miles of steam coil are employed in heating the edifice, the floors amount to 350,000 square feet, requiring seven acres of carpeting, besides an acre of marble tiling; and the cooks, waiters, chambermaids, hallmen, and clerks amount to



GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL, BROADWAY, OPPOSITE BOND STREET.

a small brigade. The price of board is \$3, \$3.50, and \$4 per day.

COOPER INSTITUTE, a fine six-story brown-stone, covering a block between Seventh and Eighth streets, Third and Fourth avenues, is a munificent donation from the man whose name it bears, and cost nearly half a million. Its enlightened projector grew up in poverty, with scanty means of culture, and the building is the fruit of frugal toil, coupled with a long-cherished desire to promote a knowledge of science and art among the laboring classes. It contains vast halls for lectures, a fine reading-room, evening-schools for young ladies, mechanics, and apprentices, galleries of art, and collections of rare inventions. The large lecture-room in the basement is the most popular public hall in the city, and has echoed to



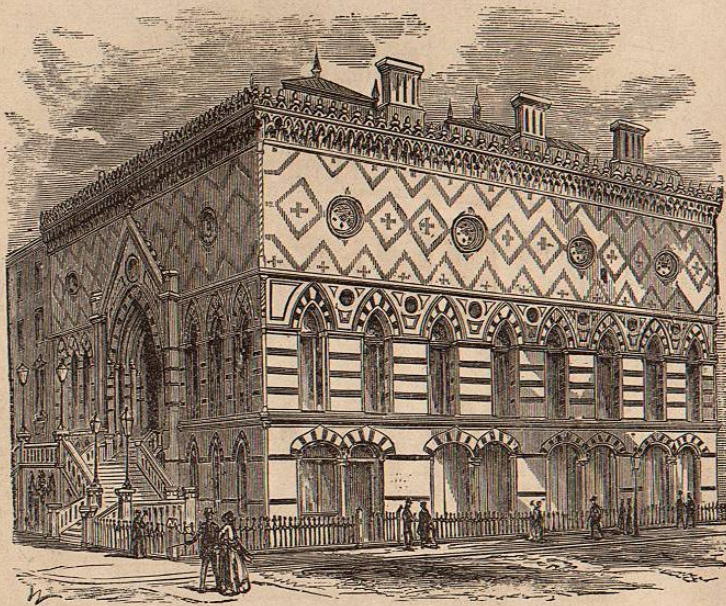
COOPER UNION.

(Eighth street, between Third and Fourth avenues.)

the eloquence of the most noted men of this country, and many from Europe. It was in this hall that Red Cloud delivered his great address in the early summer of 1870. The first floor of the building is rented for stores, and brings an income of nearly thirty thousand dollars.

The Free Night Classes in Cooper Union had an average attendance during February, 1871, as follows: School of Science, 276; School of Art, 643; School of Telegraphy, 35; Scientific Lectures, 545; Oratory Class, 100; total, 1,569. The new classes in English literature and the French language were attended by 200 and 100, respectively, bringing up the general total of attendance to over 1,800. The School of Design for girls and women has been attended by over eighty daily, and that of Engraving for women by 26. The

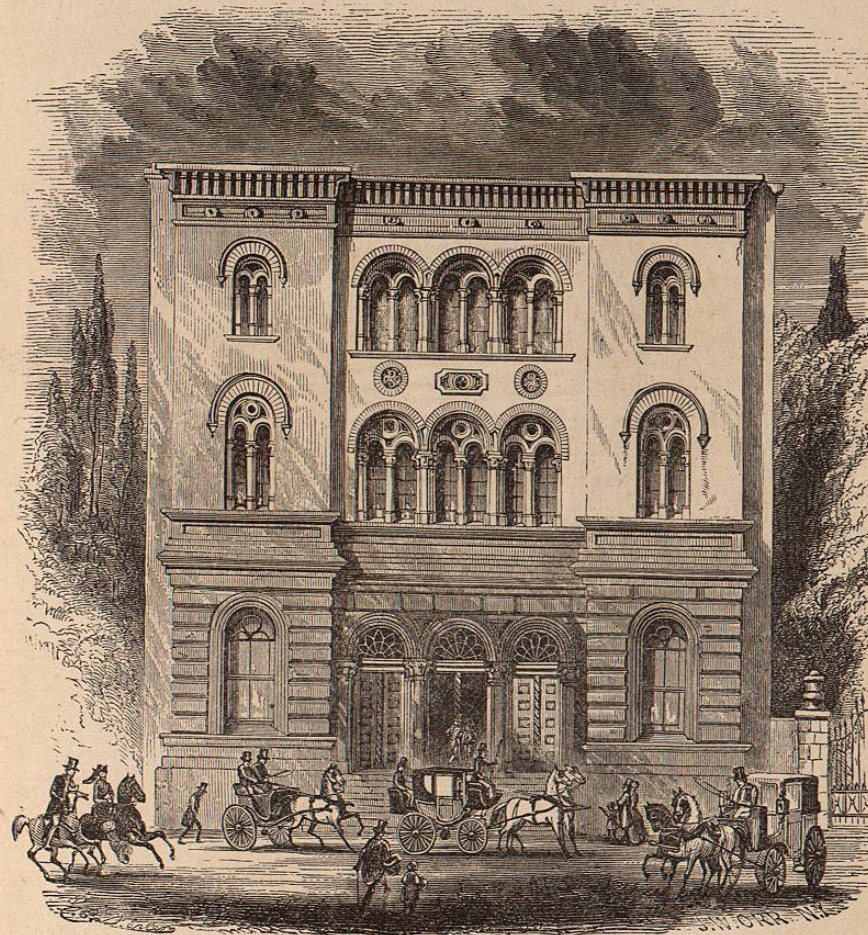
number of visitors to the free reading-room was 29,383; number of books used, 4,509.



ACADEMY OF DESIGN.

THE ACADEMY OF DESIGN, on the corner of Fourth avenue and Twenty-third street, though not particularly large, is still a building before which the observer will pause, to glance at its Gothic windows and marble walls of many colors, collected from various parts of Europe and America. The visitor is not slow to conclude that the exterior is, indeed, one of *design*.

THEATERS.—The first building erected for a theater on the island was in 1761, and opened with the tragedy of "Fair Penitent." The mob destroyed it during the excitement occasioned by the "Stamp Act," in 1766. The business has proved so profitable, that, notwithstanding the fearful havoc made among these houses of wicked amusement by fires and other casualties, they have always been too numerous, and far



THE ASTOR LIBRARY—La Fayette Place, near 8th Street.

(The above cut represents but half the present building.)