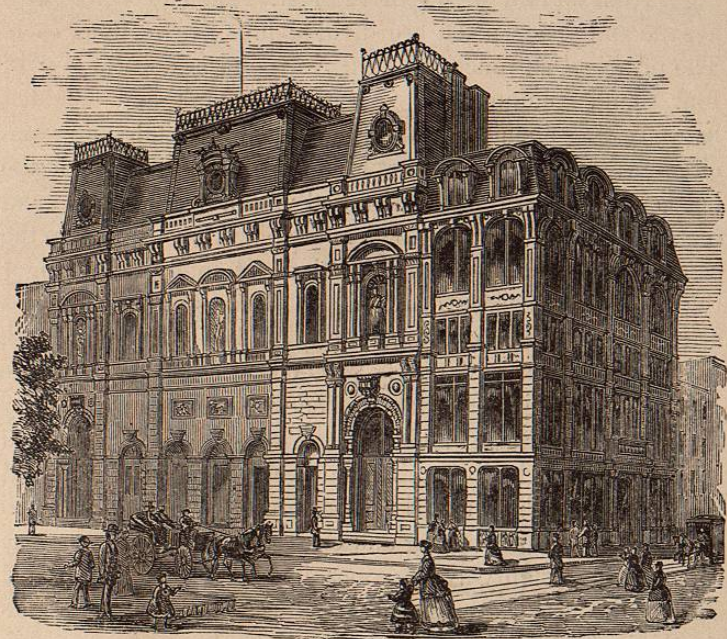


BIBLE HOUSE, Astor Place, New York.



BOOTH'S THEATER.

too largely patronized for the interests of good morals. About twenty houses of this kind are now maintained; many of them are of costly constructure, the Academy of Music, Fisk's Grand Opera House, Booth's New Theater, Niblo's, and Wallack's ranking among the first.

THE ASTOR LIBRARY BUILDING, in Lafayette Place, with an imposing entablature, marble steps and floor, is the largest and finest library-room in America. It was projected by the bequest of John Jacob Astor, and afterwards enlarged by his son William B. Astor. The accompanying cut represents the original structure and but half of the building as it now stands.

THE AMERICAN BIBLE HOUSE, a plain six-story brick, with cellar and vaults, was completed in 1853, at a cost, including ground, of \$303,000. It covers three-fourths of an acre, form-

ing a front on four streets, of 710 feet. The fronts on Fourth avenue and Astor place are divided into five sections each. The principal entrance on Fourth avenue is decorated with four round columns with Corinthian capitals and moulded bases, resting upon paneled and moulded pedestals, and semi-circular arches are placed between the columns to form the heads of doors, and all surmounted with a heavy cornice and segment pediments. The boilers are placed in the area in the centre of the building, so inclosed as not likely to endanger the operatives in case of accident. Fifty stores and offices are rented in the building, mostly to benevolent societies, bringing an income of nearly \$40,000, and making the Bible House the principal centre of benevolent and reformatory movements for the city and State. The Society was organized in 1816, since which its receipts have considerably exceeded \$5,000,000. It has printed the Scriptures in twenty-nine dialects, assisted in publishing and circulating many of the one hundred and eighty-five versions issued by the British and Foreign Bible Society, and has three times canvassed the entire United States, supplying hundreds of thousands of destitute families with the Word of God. The Society employs about five hundred hands, and carries on every branch of its vast business in its own building. The Bible House is visited annually by thousands of strangers, and can scarcely cease to be an object of profoundest interest.

THE PUBLISHING HOUSES of New York form an imposing and interesting department of the city. The buildings of the Harpers, the Appletons, and of Charles Scribner & Co., are very extensive. The new Methodist Publishing and Mission Buildings, corner of Broadway and Eleventh street, are the headquarters of the most extensive denominational publishing interests in the world. The enterprise began in Philadelphia in 1789, with a borrowed capital of \$600. In 1804 it was removed to New York, and in 1836 was destroyed by fire, inflicting a loss of \$250,000 upon the denomination. Besides paying for various church interests \$1,335,866.25, the agents

in 1868 reported a net capital of \$1,165,624.55, which has since been increased to over \$1,500,000. The new buildings

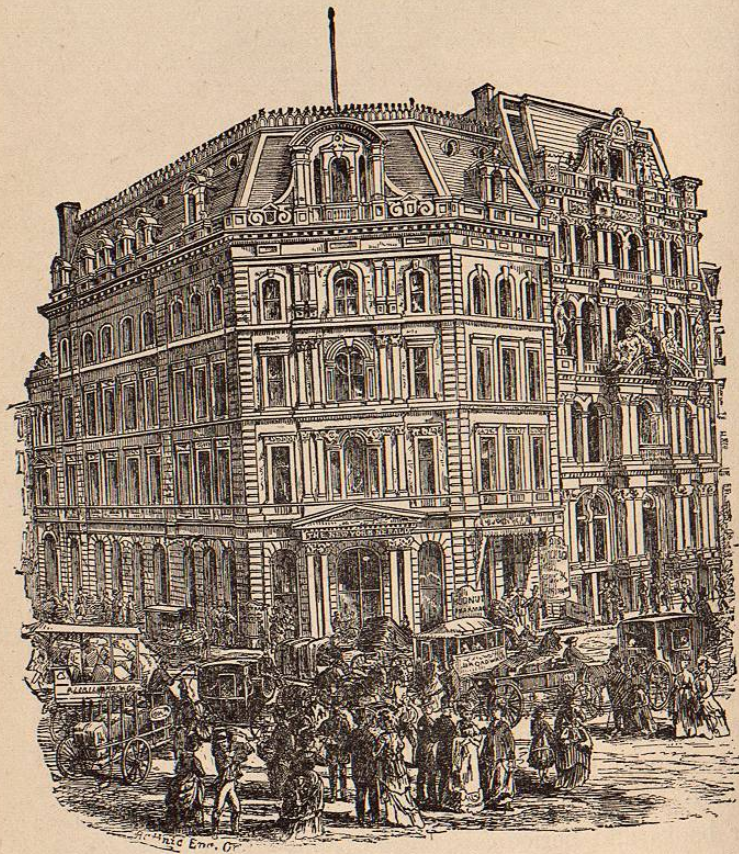


METHODIST PUBLISHING AND MISSION BUILDING.
(Broadway, corner Eleventh street.)

on Broadway were purchased in April, 1869, and cost nearly a million dollars. The structure is of iron, with five lofty stories, and a basement which extends nineteen feet under Broadway and fourteen feet under Eleventh street, and has a floor of nearly half an acre. Besides furnishing salerooms for books and periodicals, elegant offices for agents, editors, missionary secretaries, rooms for committees, preachers' meetings, etc., etc., enough is still rented to pay the interest on the cost of the entire building.

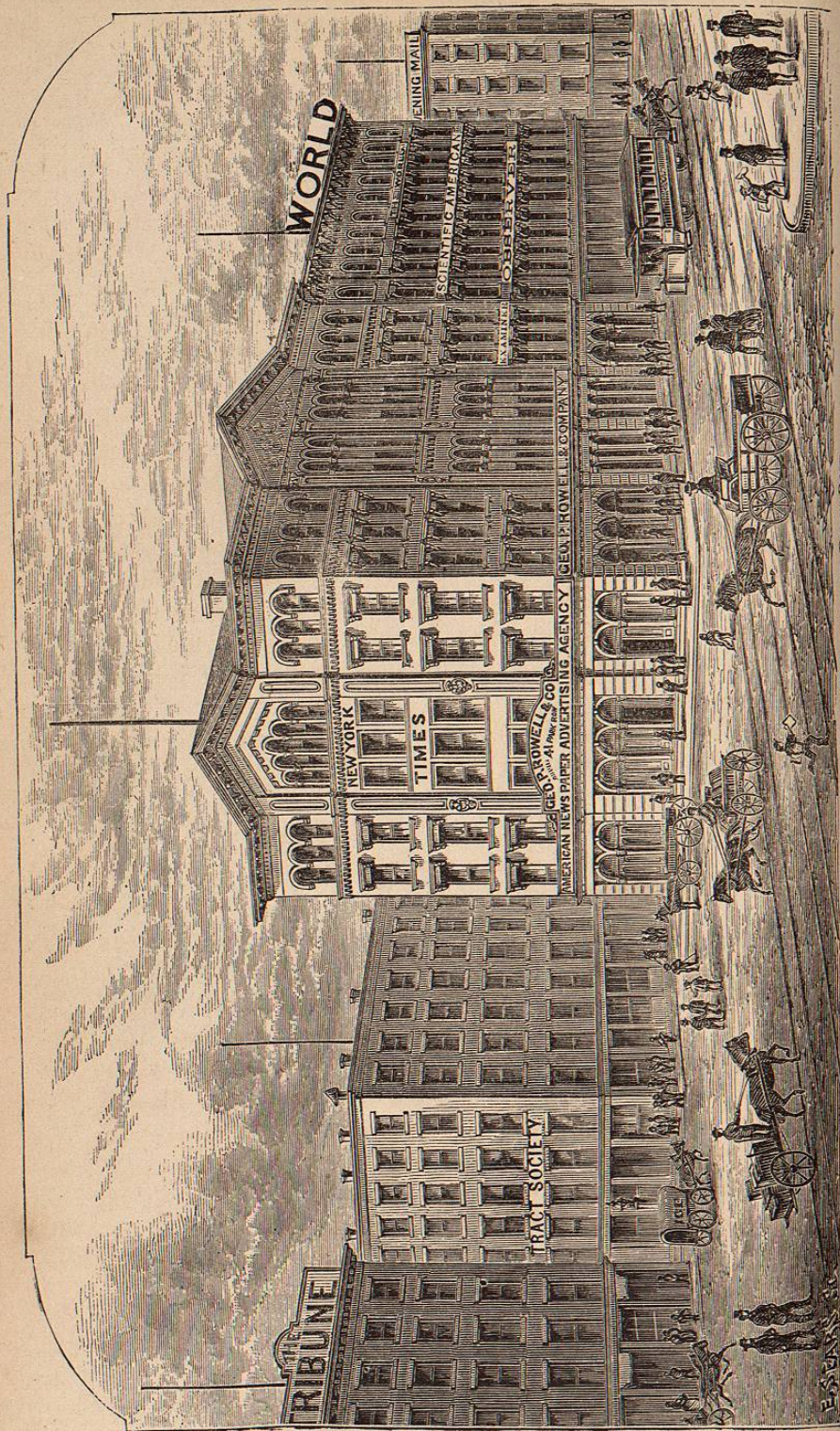
Many of the periodicals of New York are issued from colossal iron-fronted structures, which would have been an astonishment to our fathers. The *Herald* building, covering the site of Barnum's old museum, is perhaps among the finest

of this class. The *Times* building, erected several years earlier, is another fine structure, occupying a commanding position at the head of Park Row, that ominous center of compositors and printing ink. Near by stands Printing-



NEW YORK HERALD BUILDING AND PARK BANK.
(Broadway, corne, Ann street.)

House square, in or around which are published the *Tribune*, *World*, *Observer*, *Sun*, *Day-Book*, *Examiner* and *Chronicle*, *Scientific American*, *Evening Mail*, *Baptist Union*, *Rural New Yorker*, *Independent*, the *Agriculturist*, *Methodist*, *Christian Union*, etc.



PRINTING HOUSE SQUARE, TIMES BUILDING AND PARK ROW.

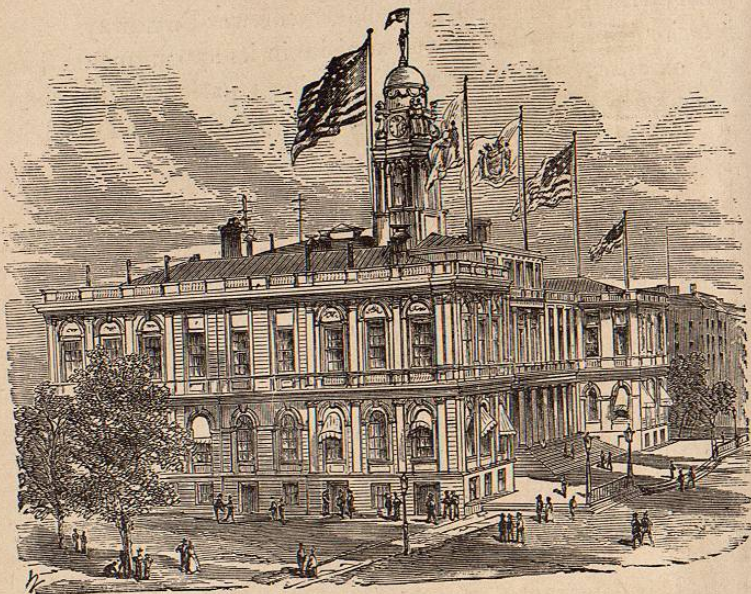
THE PARK BANK, adjoining the *Herald* building and facing St. Paul's (Episcopal) church, is an elaborate and colossal marble structure, erected at vast expense, and forms one of the most striking architectural wonders on lower Broadway. The interior is if possible more exquisite in its appointments than the exterior. The offices and business parlors of its chief officers are cushioned and otherwise gilded and adorned in the richest manner.

THE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES have of late virtually undertaken to excel all others in architectural enterprises. The building just reared by the *Equitable Life Insurance Company*, on the corner of Cedar street and Broadway, is an example of what men and money can accomplish, and may be termed one of the later wonders of Manhattan. It has a frontage of 87 feet on Broadway, is 187 feet deep on Cedar street, and is 137 feet high. Its massive iron columns and substantial construction give the surest evidence of permanency.

The building of the *New York Life Insurance Company*, corner of Broadway and Leonard street, is scarcely less striking. It is constructed of white marble in the Ionic order, its chief entrance-way being richly ornamented. The public need not be alarmed at the report of the millions lavished by the managers of these companies on imposing business temples, as the demand for first-class offices is so great that a large revenue is annually realized from the investment.

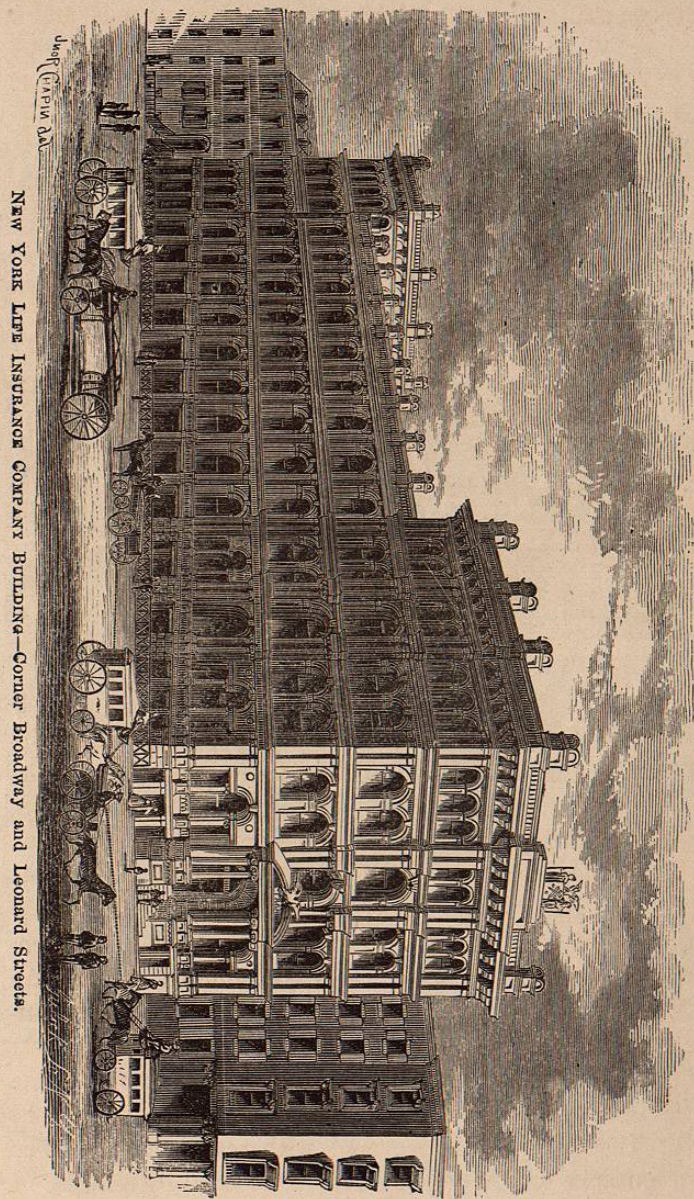
THE CITY HALL, commenced in 1803 and completed in 1811, was for many years the finest edifice in America. It is 216 feet long and 105 wide. The front and ends are of white marble and the rear of New York free-stone. The Mayor, clerk of the common council, and many other officials occupy its rooms. On the second floor is the Governor's room, 52 by 20 feet, used for the reception of distinguished visitors. It contains General Washington's writing-desk, on which he penned his first message to Congress, and is decorated with many fine portraits of the Governors of New York, and other

distinguished Americans. The building is surmounted by a tower containing a bell weighing over 9,000 pounds, and a



CITY HALL.

cupola in which is a four-dial clock of superior workmanship, and is otherwise ornamented with a figure of Justice. The building cost over half a million, a large sum for those days. In the rear of the City Hall, and fronting on Chambers street, the authorities have been for eight years engaged in the erection of the NEW YORK COURT-HOUSE. The building is 250 feet long, 150 wide, and the crown of the dome when completed will be 210 feet above the pavement. The walls are of Massachusetts white marble, the beams, staircases, and outside doors are of iron, while black walnut and the choicest Georgia-pine are employed in finishing the interior. Some of the iron beams and girders weigh over twenty-five tons each. The halls are all covered with marble tiling. The main entrance on Chambers street is reached by a flight of



NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY BUILDING—Corner Broadway and Leonard Streets.