DESCRIPTIOHS.

THE NEW BANKING OFFICE
OF
"THE PHILADELPHIA SAVING
FUND SOCIETY."

THIS edifice is an example of the
fast developing tendency to build
for the future as well as for the present,
not only with respect to commodious-
ness and convenience, but also to dura-
bility. Institutions of this kind have,
until recently, been content to occupy
buildings of ordinary construction, but
various causes have combined to induce
some of them to provide better and
more substantial facilities for business.

Foremost in Philadelphia, if not in
the country, in taking care of the
savings of the poor, stands "The Phila-
delphia Saving Fund Society." Founded
in 1816, and managed by a succes-
sion of our best citizens, it has con-
tinued to grow in strength and useful-
ness, until the present building has been
found unsuitable for the accommodation
of the business, which, attracted by the
solid character and reputation of the
Society, sought the way to its doors.

To enlarge its capabilities for doing
good—the Managers receive no emolu-
ment whatever for their services—
this Society, in the latter part of the
year 1865, determined on the erection
of a new and more commodious build-
ing than that which they now occupy.
Having purchased a suitable location,
at the southwest corner of Walnut street
and West Washington Square, they pro-
ceeded to procure plans and estimates
for their new structure.

Here we may pause to commend the
sagacity and benevolence of this body
of men in choosing a site, for it is not
too much to say, that in the whole city
another such could not be found. Con-
venient to the great business centre,
with the large front on one of the finest
Squares in the city, nothing could be
better suited to the purposes of business
and to the health and comfort of the
employees of the institution. Espe-
cially also is it favorable for the display
of the architecture of the building. Too
frequently our street views are so cramped,
that the design of the architect, be it
good or bad, is distorted by the unfa-
vorable lines of vision. Here, owing to
the open Square, it is otherwise. The
whole structure can be embraced in a
glance, and an object which in a narrow
and crowded street would only be no-
ticed as a thing of utility, becomes,
largely owing to the circumstance of
location, an ornament to the city.

The design adopted as the most sui-
table to meet the several requirements
of the Society, was prepared by Abdon
Hulton, Esq., and under his supervision
the building has been enclosed during
the past season.

The front on Walnut street is 51 feet
6 inches, and on Washington Square,
130 feet, in length, leaving 40 feet of
clear space in the rear. To those of
our readers who are familiar with
the material of which these fronts are
built—Quincy Granite—we need scarcely
state, that the building is more hand-
some than the drawing would lead one
to expect. The strongly-marked ex-
pression of stability is in harmony with
the character of the institution. Beyond
plain lines of masonry, and the crowning
balustrade, it may be said to be de-
void of ornament, the architect having
relied, for his effects, mainly on the dis-
tribution and contrast of light and
shade, and the intrinsic beauty of the
material.

But the most satisfactory of all its
points is, that it is constructed with such
imperishable and indestructible mate-
rials. Granite, brick and iron form the
essentials of the structure, no pains or
expense having been spared to make it thoroughly fire-proof. The lower floor is vaulted on walls, the upper floors and ceilings on wrought-iron beams; affording security alike from without and within.

The Banking-room is 57 by 53 feet, and the ceiling 40 feet high, in the clear. The rear wing of the building is subdivided, on the first floor, into the President’s room, Treasurer’s room, two large, strong rooms, and several Retiring-rooms; on the second floor, into the Managers’ Meeting-room, Dining-room, Waiting-room, Book-room, and Retiring-room.

The ceiling will be coved and frescoed in panels, and the interior will be finished with walnut and ash woods, with the introduction of a portion of marble.

The counters will have marble fronts with a top screen of walnut wood and plate-glass; the floor will be laid, outside the counters, with brown and blue flag, in alternate diamond patterns.

It would be beyond the proper limits of this article, to go into the details of the furniture and decorations, but we are assured that every thing will be done with an eye to the proper fitness of things.

We may again allude to this department, when the building is entirely completed; just now we can only compliment Mr. Hutton on the evidence of success displayed in the well-proportioned, solid and suggestive building before us, presenting, as it does, those intelligent features of Bank Architecture which, while they abjure mere meretricious ornamentation, display a dignity at once worthy of the style, and the use it is applied to.

In a former number we drew a line of distinction between the styles of finish most consonant to the respective subjects of Bank Building; making the Savings Bank a less pretentious structure, than that for Discount and Deposit. Mr. Hutton’s design admirably illustrates the theory.

NEW JERSEY ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

HOSPITAL construction is a subject we have already touched upon; but it is one which must ever prove of the utmost importance to every community. If man in his perfect health requires the safeguards which keep him in that most desirable state, how much more does he stand in need of the most careful sanitary arrangements when sickness and disease usurp the place of health, and leave the system impotent, and craving every aid which his attendants can afford him. His wealth will command all that science can give; but how is it with the poorer invalid? He, alas, is forced to accept of such assistance in his suffering, as benevolence, dictated by religion and humanity, bestow. It is for this latter class, that, in every community, medical and nutritive assistance is given on a comprehensive scale, by institutions aptly designated Hospitals. Here the sick are the guests (hospes) of the community, and receive its hospitality, until health is re-established.

To the architect belongs the thorough arrangement of the hospital. All the principles involved in its sanitary perfection are in his keeping; subject, of course, to such hints as the medical faculty can give him, and such aids as he obtains from inventions of others. In our day this branch of the professional labors is one that calls forth all the untiring diligence and careful attention of the architect, and it is something to be proud of, that he is liberally sustained, in his efforts, by the community for whom he toils.

The accommodation required for insane patients being necessarily limited in a general hospital, the establishment of institutions expressly dedicated to their wants became general. Lunatic Asylums were founded on the most comprehensive and scientific principles, and sites for this purpose were chosen, pos-