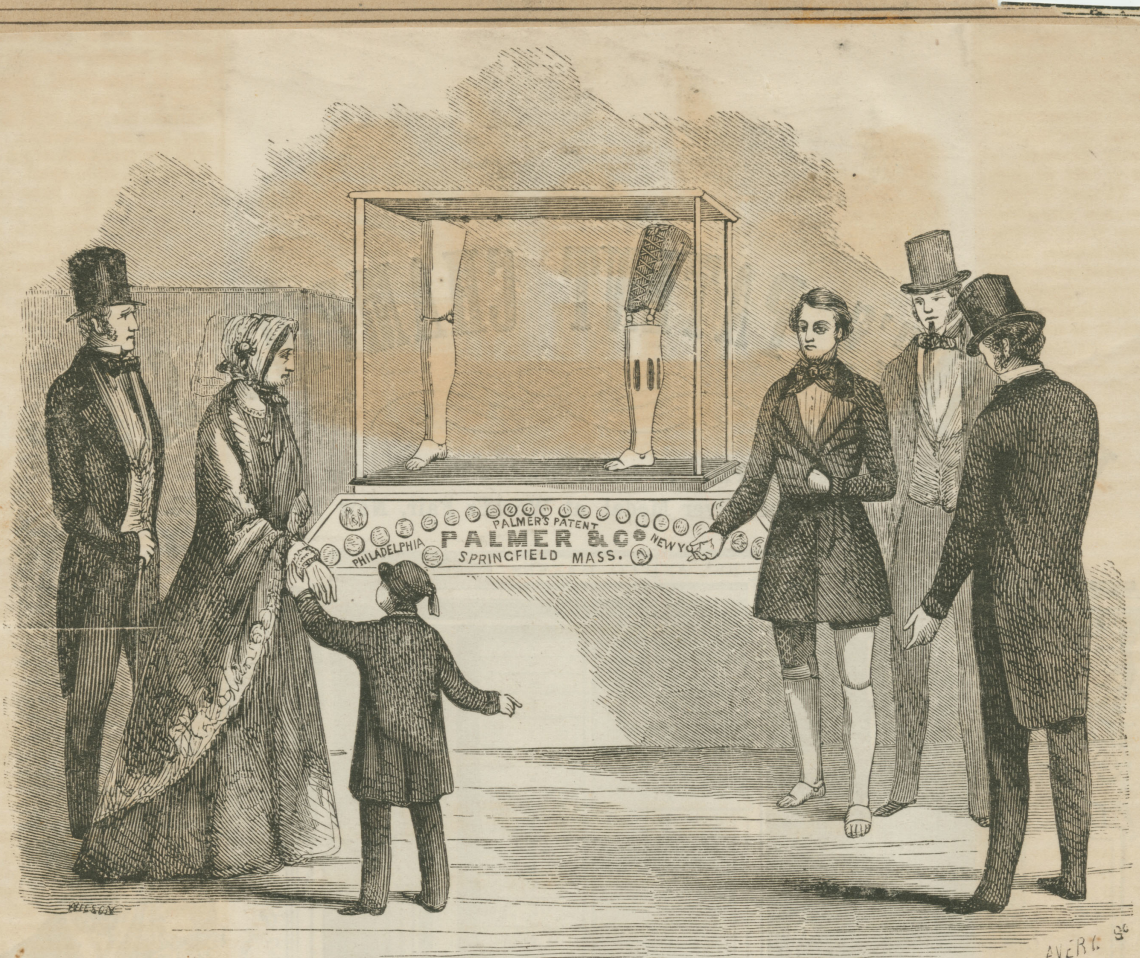
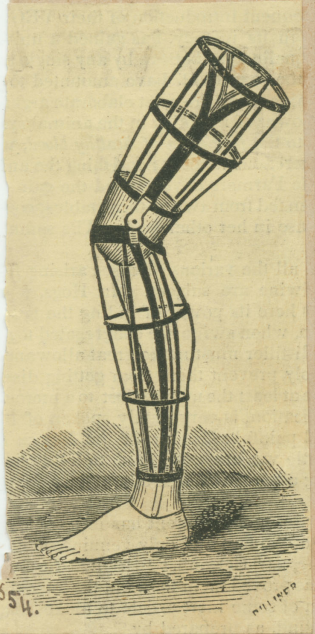




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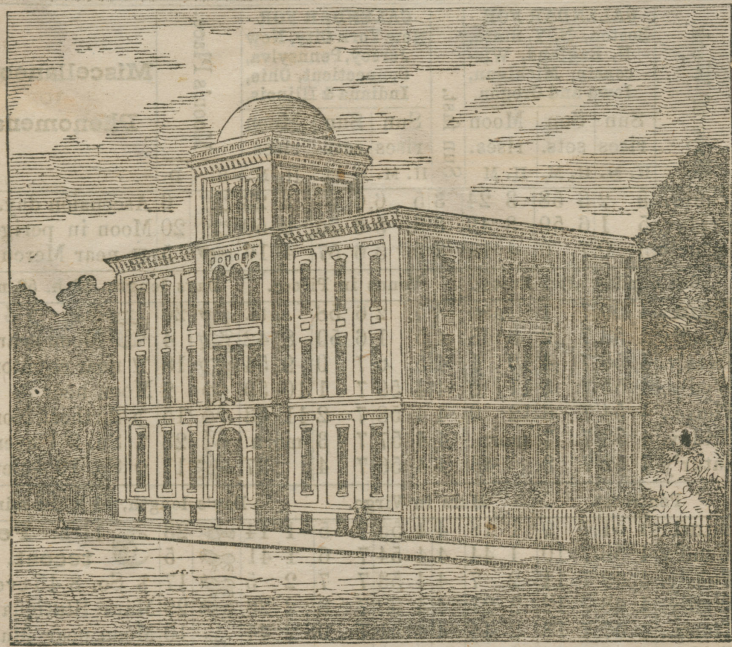


PALMER'S PATENT LEG,

As Exhibited at the WORLD'S EXHIBITION, LONDON, 1851, and NEW YORK, 1853, with the Gold and Silver Medals awarded,

A CHANGE.—There are few people in this town who have not been refreshed, during the last four or five years, by a "bite" or a plate of ice cream at Isaac Newton's, in Chesnut street, opposite the State House. There is scarcely a business man who, for want of time to go home to dinner, has not stopped in at Newton's to get a steak or a "levy stew," or half a dozen fried with trimmings. The ladies, too, when wearied by shopping, and tired of looking at silks and laces, drop in for some refreshment, which they invariably find to be of the best quality. To all such we give notice that our old friend Isaac will cater for them no longer. He retires from business, with the best wishes of all who have ever been served by him. His successor is Mr. G. P. Mitchell, late of Burlington, New Jersey, who has long been accustomed to pleasing the tastes of lovers of nice morsels. His experience and desire to please will secure for him the patronage of the customers of his predecessor. As heretofore, every branch of the art confectionery will receive due attention. Mr. J. H. Burdell, who was for many years with friend Newton as cashier and superintendent, will remain with Mr. Mitchell.

[Sunday Mercury, Mar. 9, 1856]



HIGH SCHOOL, PHILADELPHIA.

THIS view of the "CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL" will be acceptable to all our readers. It is now very generally conceded that the Free School System, as conducted in Pennsylvania, is second to none; numerous improvements have been made in it, during the last few years, not the least of which is an increase of about 20 per cent, on the salaries of the Teachers, which up to last year had remained at the rates fixed fifteen years ago, although, in the mean time, the cost of living had nearly doubled, thus rendering the compensation so poor that it was difficult to retain the most talented and competent persons. Beside the new High School, as given above, the Controllers have erected new buildings for the Normal School—a new School House in the first section; and one in the twenty-third; and have in process of erection another in the first section, one in the twenty-first, and another in the twenty-third. The total number of scholars attending the High School at the date of the last report was 601; but the last average is estimated to be 556, at a cost of \$33.66, per annum, for each pupil;—the total number of pupils in all the schools, 52,073, at a cost of \$6.48, exclusive of the new buildings, or \$3.79, inclusive.

S. & Co. of Broad and Green street—
See a photograph at p. 59—

CITY BULLETIN.

BINGHAM'S MANSION.—The disastrous fire, yesterday morning, communicated to a large building on Bingham's Court, three squares from the scene of the great conflagration, and destroyed its roof. We briefly referred yesterday, in our report of the conflagration, to the fact that the building thus partially destroyed was at one time a portion of the old Mansion House Hotel. This spot has considerable historical interest attached to it, which will probably be new to many of our younger readers. About the year 1788, Mr. William Bingham, a wealthy gentleman, and the head of a very aristocratic family, enclosed the southern half of the square bounded by Third, Fourth, Spruce and Walnut streets, and built for himself a fine mansion upon the spot, laying out the grounds in very elegant style. The family lived there in great state, and old Philadelphians will remember the fashionable figure cut by "the Bingham" at the close of the last and at the early part of the present century.

A Philadelphia Directory, published in the year 1794, and which we have in our possession, thus describes the Bingham property:

"This gentleman's (Mr. Bingham's) house was begun in the year 1786, and finished in the year 1788. It is 100 feet fronting on Third street, (including the wing) and 60 feet deep, with double octagon backs. The lot is about 262 feet on Third street; 336 feet on Spruce street, and 292 feet on Fourth street. The garden is laid out on the English plan, and abounds with the choicest fruit; perhaps unequalled here. The green-house contains nearly 500 exotic plants. The building is finished in the most superb manner, and annexed to it is every convenience for a family, viz: an ice-house, milk-house, stables, &c."

After the death of the elder Mr. Bingham, the family removed to Canada for the purpose, it was said, of enabling the eldest son to enjoy a title which he had inherited. The grounds about the mansion were cut up into building lots, and covered by respectable dwellings. The mansion house itself was converted into a hotel, and under the direction of Mr. Joseph Head the Mansion House Hotel attained a high reputation. For many years it was the "crack house" of the city, and there the fashionables and notables from abroad were wont to sojourn during their visits to Philadelphia. But business was too much for fashion, and when the latter commenced its march further westward, the Mansion House Hotel began to fall from its high estate, and it finally became an obsolete idea. New and handsome structures were reared upon the open court-yard in front, and such portions of the old structure as were worth preserving were left standing. It was one of these old buildings that was damaged yesterday.

[Original 12, 50—