

HOUSE OF REFUGE.

On the opposite page we have furnished an accurate print of the HOUSE OF REFUGE, near this city; which is accompanied by a key and references. From documents published at various times, under the superintendence of the Managers, we have extracted the following brief description of the house, and the rise and progress of the institution:—

It will be recollected that at a large and respectable meeting of the citizens of Philadelphia, held on the 7th day of February, 1826, it was resolved, with great unanimity, to organize a society for the reformation of juvenile delinquents. The terms of association were agreed upon, and committees appointed to solicit subscriptions in aid of the undertaking. Immediately after, application was made to the Legislature for the requisite powers; and, on the 23d of March, 1826, an act was passed to incorporate the subscribers, with a rapidity which evinced the entire sanction by the legislative wisdom of Pennsylvania, of the plan of benevolence which had thus been devised.

On the first day of May, in the same year, officers and managers were elected by the subscribers, and charged with the execution of what had been thus resolved and sanctioned. They have since been continued, (with some few changes) by successive elections, and have earnestly endeavoured to fulfil the task assigned to them.

In many of the wards, the committees appointed by the meeting did not perform their duty with the zeal and industry expected from them. With the aid of the committees, nevertheless, and with the voluntary exertions of individual members of the Board, who kindly gave their services, there was collected from this source, in the city and districts, the sum of \$8,104 41.

In the same year (1826) application was made to the Legislature for assistance; and on the 2d of March, 1827, an act was passed, evincing the same liberal spirit which has always characterized our representatives when worthy objects have been presented for their support. By this act, there was an immediate appropriation of five thousand dollars, an appropriation of twenty-five hundred dollars, additional, before the 1st January, 1828, and twenty-five hundred dollars before the 1st January, 1829, making a total from the State treasury of ten thousand dollars. By the same act, ten thousand dollars were directed to be paid by the county commissioners of the county of Philadelphia, out of the county funds, in annual instalments, of not less than five thousand dollars each, "for the purpose of defraying the expense of a site, and building a HOUSE OF REFUGE thereon;" and after such payment, they were directed to pay "annually thereafter, for the term of five years, the sum of five thousand dollars, for keeping the said House of Refuge in good order and repair, and for defraying any incidental and unavoidable expenses

the Christian Revelation. Among his hearers were a small number of professed Unitarians, principally emigrants from Great Britain, who, in consequence of the impulse thus given, formed an association for the purpose of worshipping God, according to the dictates of their consciences. It was agreed that printed sermons and prayers should be used, and that the office of reader should be filled by each member in rotation.—Accordingly, on the 12th June, 1796, fourteen persons assembled together for the purposes of social worship, upon liberal views, in a room of the University. This number was afterwards increased to twenty-one.

The society thus formed continued to meet every Sabbath until 1800, in the August of which year its meetings were discontinued; some of the members having died and others being scattered.

which may from time to time be incurred in conducting the said Institution."

While these measures were in progress, the managers were anxiously engaged in exertions to bring the institution into active existence at an early day as possible. The want of such an establishment became more obvious as their inquiries were extended. They hoped that some building might be found already erected, and calculated to afford the required accommodation, at least for a time. But their expectations were disappointed; and they were soon brought to the conclusion (with which they have now no reason to be dissatisfied) that the object of their constituents and the public could only be attained by purchasing a lot, and placing upon it a structure in all respects adapted to the contemplated purpose.

Accordingly, about the 7th of April, 1827, they purchased a lot of five acres and fifteen perches, at the corner of Francis's lane and the Wissahiccon road, in Penn township, in the county of Philadelphia, for the sum of five thousand five hundred dollars. Having arranged their plan, and appointed a building committee, the corner-stone was laid on the 21st of June, 1827, and the building urged to a completion with as much despatch as the nature of the case would allow. The general plan and arrangement will be understood from the following description:—

A plot of ground, 400 feet in length from east to west, and 231 feet in breadth from north to south, bounded by streets on all sides, is enclosed by a stone wall, two feet thick and twenty feet high. The main building fronts to the north, on Howard street, and is 92 feet in length by 30 in depth. This building is intended for the accommodation of the keeper's family, and contains rooms for the use of the managers, and for infirmaries for the delinquents. Wings on each side extend the whole length of the front, and contain three ranges or stories of dormitories, four feet by seven feet each, for separate lodging rooms. These dormitories, of which there are 174, are well lighted and ventilated. The main building is covered with tin, and the dormitories are slated. It is designed (in case it should be necessary, and the means can be obtained,) to complete the plan by extending these dormitories round the wall of the yard, so as to form a hollow square. The expense will be comparatively small, as they will be within the present wall, a part of the cost of which may be considered as having been incurred with a view to such extension. There is, also, within the enclosure, a place of worship, and there are the necessary buildings for kitchens, dining-rooms, and workshops.

These buildings, it will be seen, embrace the requisite provision for security, employment, instruction, and separation from contaminating association. The utmost economy has been consulted throughout; and the managers, never forgetting that it was their first duty to advance the object committed to their care, have been careful at the same time neither to incur nor

believe, were ordained for the ministry. In 1825 the Rev. Wm. H. Furness was chosen as pastor, and under his charge the congregation has since remained.

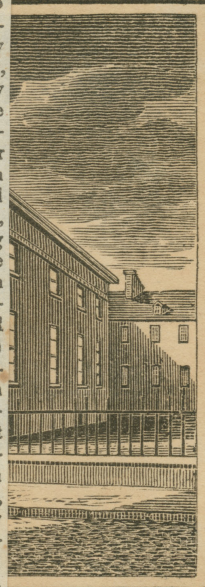
The present building is partly on the site of the former church, which was of an octagonal form; and was opened for public worship on Sunday, Feb. 14, 1813.

The congregation having greatly increased, as the building could not be enlarged, it was taken down in February and March, 1828; and the new church was first opened for worship on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 1828. The plan of the building is a parallelogram, 61 by 83 feet.

The south front elevation is a plain unbroken surface of Pennsylvania marble, embracing a tetrastyle portico of the Grecian doric order.

The columns are 3 feet in diameter at their

"The state of the subjects, considering the shortness of the time which many, and even all managers were anxiously engaged in exertions to bring the institution into active existence at an early day as possible. The boys are generally attentive to their studies and to their work; and their deportment is such as would, in any inquiries were extended. They hoped that some building might be found already erected, and calculated to afford the required accommodation, at least for a time. But their expectations were disappointed; and they were soon brought to the conclusion (with which they have now no reason to be dissatisfied) that the object of their constituents and the public could only be attained by purchasing a lot, and placing upon it a structure in all respects adapted to the contemplated purpose. Accordingly, about the 7th of April, 1827, they purchased a lot of five acres and fifteen perches, at the corner of Francis's lane and the Wissahiccon road, in Penn township, in the county of Philadelphia, for the sum of five thousand five hundred dollars. Having arranged their plan, and appointed a building committee, the corner-stone was laid on the 21st of June, 1827, and the building urged to a completion with as much despatch as the nature of the case would allow. The general plan and arrangement will be understood from the following description:— A plot of ground, 400 feet in length from east to west, and 231 feet in breadth from north to south, bounded by streets on all sides, is enclosed by a stone wall, two feet thick and twenty feet high. The main building fronts to the north, on Howard street, and is 92 feet in length by 30 in depth. This building is intended for the accommodation of the keeper's family, and contains rooms for the use of the managers, and for infirmaries for the delinquents. Wings on each side extend the whole length of the front, and contain three ranges or stories of dormitories, four feet by seven feet each, for separate lodging rooms. These dormitories, of which there are 174, are well lighted and ventilated. The main building is covered with tin, and the dormitories are slated. It is designed (in case it should be necessary, and the means can be obtained,) to complete the plan by extending these dormitories round the wall of the yard, so as to form a hollow square. The expense will be comparatively small, as they will be within the present wall, a part of the cost of which may be considered as having been incurred with a view to such extension. There is, also, within the enclosure, a place of worship, and there are the necessary buildings for kitchens, dining-rooms, and workshops. These buildings, it will be seen, embrace the requisite provision for security, employment, instruction, and separation from contaminating association. The utmost economy has been consulted throughout; and the managers, never forgetting that it was their first duty to advance the object committed to their care, have been careful at the same time neither to incur nor



Sept. 1829.

es, and support a full tabature and pediment, which projects 9 feet from the face of the building. The approach is by a wide flight of steps leading to the portico and door of entrance into the vestibules and body of the building.

From the vestibules two stairways communicate with a large front gallery and organ loft.

In the rear, or north end of the church, a recess is formed, embracing the pulpit, which is flanked by two doric pillars supporting the entablature, the frieze of which contains the following inscription—

This is life eternal,
That they might know thee, the only true God;
And Jesus Christ whom thou has sent.

John xvii. 3.

Exclusive of the fixed benches, and necessary accommodations for the choir, there are seats for about 840 persons.



J. W. Lloyd's Apothecary and Patent-Medicine Store—
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