

## STATE HOUSE.

---

This distinguished building was begun in the year 1729, and finished in the year 1734. The amplitude of such an edifice in so early a day, and the expensive interior decorations, are creditable evidences of the liberality and public spirit of the times. On the Sixth Street side rested upon the wall a long shed, which afforded and was used as the common shelter for the parties of Indians occasionally visiting the city on business. This venerable pile, the State House, is a place consecrated by important events in our colonial and revolutionary history. Its contemplation fills the mind with numerous associations and local impressions. Within its walls were once witnessed all the memorable doings of our spirited forefathers; above all, it was made renowned in 1776, as possessing beneath its dome "the Hall of Independence" in which the representatives of a nation resolved to be free and independent. The facts concerning the bell first set up in the steeple, (if we regard its after-history) are peculiar. It was of itself not a little singular that the bell, when first set up, should in its colonial character, have been inscribed with the motto, "Proclaim Liberty throughout the land, and to all the inhabitants thereof;" but it is still stronger, and deserves to be often remembered, that it was the first in Philadelphia, and from the situation of the Congress legislating beneath its peals, it was also the first in the United States to proclaim, by ringing the news, "the Declaration of Independence."

## WHITBY HALL.

---

Whitby Hill, the original name of this mansion, has in modern times been altered to Whitby Hall. This specimen of a fine old country house stands upon the east side of Gray's Lane, north of the Darby Road, upon the brow of a hill rising from the Amensaka, a small stream which is a branch of the Karakung, or Cobb's Creek. The original house was built in 1741 by John Coultas, the same person who by contract built St. James' Swedish Church, Kingsessing. In 1754 Coultas made some very fine additions to Whitby Hill, including that portion of the house shown in our view. Coultas was a man of spirit and enterprise. He kept the Middle and afterwards the Lower Ferry, and at one time was sheriff of Philadelphia. On his death he devised Whitby Hill to his niece, who afterwards married Geo. Gray, of Gray's Ferry. It has been in the same family for 135 years.