

FRIENDS' ALMSHOUSE,

WALNUT STREET, NEAR FOURTH.

The little one story house shown in this plate was the only building connected with the Quaker Almshouse which remained after the main structure in front had been torn down. It stood until April, 1876, when it was removed to make way for other improvements. The lot of ground upon which the almshouse was situated, on the south side of Walnut Street, between Third and Fourth, extended to Willing's Alley. In 1718, John Martin, a Quaker, was the owner of this ground; and being old, and not rich in personal property, he conveyed the grounds to the Friends' meeting, upon condition that it would build an almshouse on the premises and take care of him for the remainder of his days. Several small buildings, of the same pattern as that shown in the view were built in that year, and a large one in 1729, extending the whole width of the lot on Walnut Street, which was curious in appearance. In 1841 the front portion of the almshouse lot was sold and the large amount of money obtained for it appropriated to the support of the poor of the sect in boarding-houses and families, whereby vastly more means were obtained than could be had by maintaining the lot of ground, whilst the character of the assistance to the poor was far less objectionable than it could be in an ordinary almshouse establishment.

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS,

CHESTNUT ST., BETWEEN TENTH AND ELEVENTH.

This view represents the building as it appeared shortly before it was torn down, in 1876, to make way for Fox's American Theatre. The Academy of Fine Arts was organized in 1805 by seventy-one gentlemen. They purchased a lot of ground on the north side of Chestnut Street, west of Tenth, and finished the edifice in 1806. It was the first building in the United States devoted to the fine arts. It was partially destroyed by fire in 1845, and reconstructed on a much larger scale than at first, in 1846. The elegant new building of this institution, (dedicated April 22d, 1876,) at Broad and Cherry Streets, is spacious and complete in arrangements. The original building on Chestnut Street was of the Grecian order of architecture, and stood back from the street, leaving an open space in front. About 1845 a large building was erected in front of the Academy for the use of the Artists' Fund Society. Access to the Academy was had by an entry or passage below. After some years the Artists' Fund Building was taken down entirely, and two small houses fitted up for use as shops replaced it, leaving an open passage-way to the main building of the Academy in the rear.