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ing with the main ventilating shaft above the chandelier of the auditorium, which will carry off all the heat without at all diminishing the light. The gas pipes, which have been introduced by Messrs Archer & Warner, measure about fourteen thousand feet, and are calculated to supply over two thousand jets or burners, and provision has also been made to place four additional chandeliers under the auditorium dome, and six others upon the stage, when grand balls are given. On these occasions the parquet will be floored over and brought on a level with the stage. The saloons, drawing and retiring rooms, contiguous to the lobbies in the several stories are nearly finished, and are to be furnished with all the modern conveniences. The stairways for the audience are very numerous, wide, and of easy ascent, and distributed in the most convenient manner possible. Mr. John D. Jones, the contractor for building, has displayed much energy and fidelity in carrying out the designs, and expects to complete his part of the contract in about one month. The decorative carving of the interior is being prepared by Messrs. Basher & Bailey. Mr. Kaiser, the artist, is to paint the ceiling of the auditorium. Already the artists are engaged in painting some of the scenery. Altogether, the building seems to give the highest satisfaction to all concerned, and promises to realize the desires of the directors, in having one of the most perfect and extensive Opera Houses in the world, and when successfully completed, the architects may well be proud of their achievement. The building committee are anxious to complete their task as soon and as complete as possible, but much will depend upon their success in raising the balance of \$30,000, still unsold of the 8 per cent. preferred stock.

WATER DEPARTMENT—
Office, No. 200 CHERRY Street.
PHILADELPHIA, June 8, 1857.

SEPARATE PROPOSALS for each of the three classes of articles and work, will be received at this office until MONDAY, 15th inst., at 12 M., for furnishing this department with the various CASTINGS and FIXTURES for the year 1857, as follows:

1st—For all the Castings for fitting Stop Cocks, &c., to be used at the City Shop, No. 200 Cherry Street; patterns to be furnished by the City, castings to be made of first quality soft iron, and delivered at said shop, stating the price per pound.

2d—For Brass Castings, &c., to be used at the City Shop; the metal to be of the best quality, the patterns to be furnished by the City; stating the price per pound, delivered at the City Shop, No. 200 Cherry street.

3d—For Stop Cocks and Fire Pumps, complete and ready for use, of the same pattern now in use by the City; stating the prices of the various sizes, delivered at the City Shop, No. 200 Cherry street.

The above materials to be delivered in such quantities and when required. SAMUEL OGDEN,
Je9 6t Chief Engineer of the Water Department.

WATER DEPARTMENT—
Office, No. 200 CHERRY Street.
PHILADELPHIA, June 8, 1857.

PROPOSALS will be received at this office until MONDAY, 15th inst., at 12 M., for supplying the city with Iron Pipes and Castings, of the size hereinafter mentioned, which may be required and ordered for the year 1857, stating the prices per foot for the various size pipes and per ton of 2,240 lbs. for Castings, namely:

3 inch pipes 9 feet in length, (to weigh on an average	130
4 " " " " " " " " " "	190
6 " " " " " " " " " "	310
8 " " " " " " " " " "	420
10 " " " " " " " " " "	530
12 " " " " " " " " " "	650
16 " " " " " " " " " "	1004

and such branches and curves and fire-plug Castings as may be required. All the above pipes, branches, curves and castings to be executed from patterns to be first approved by the Chief Engineer or his Agent, to be made of strong, tough iron, which shall be of such quality as will not crack by handling, drilling or dressing, and free from defects of any kind, all to be proved to a pressure equal to a head of water of 300 feet, said proof, if required, to be made under the inspection of the agent of the city, at the cost of the contractor; all patterns, necessary, also, to be furnished at the cost of the contractor, and to be delivered at such points and in such quantities as may be wanted and when required on the Schuylkill or Delaware fronts, as may be directed by the Chief Engineer; the department reserving the right to accept or reject any part of the bids. SAMUEL OGDEN,
Je 9 6dt Chief Engineer of Water Department.

The Water Department.—The effects of the severe frost of the winter, together with the freshet and drift ice, on the Schuylkill river, has rendered it necessary for the Water Department of the City to make a critical examination of the several works and reservoirs, with a view to necessary repairs calculated to guard against accidents.

Upon the suggestion of Mr. Ogden, the chief engineer, who has during the time he has occupied the post given evidence of great practical knowledge and skill in the discharge of his duties, the committees on water-works yesterday visited the reservoir at Fairhill, from which the old districts of Kensington and Richmond are supplied with water; the reservoir at Morris City, in the Twentieth Ward, from which the old districts of Spring Garden, Northern Liberties and Penn are supplied, and also the dam and works at Fairmount.

The reservoir at Fairhill has been affected by the frost, and the embankment will therefore require some repairs on the inside and outside facing, besides a wall on its southern side for its better protection against leaks or breaches. This we believe is actually necessary, and no doubt the matter will be presented to Councils, and action taken upon it immediately. The reservoir at Morris City will require some attention on the northeastern side, at a point where some years ago a breach was made, which carried away a portion of the walls of the Guard College. The frost here has affected it, and a slight settling of the embankment is perceptible. At the Fairmount Works everything is in good condition, and nothing required to be done except to replace the capping of the dam, which was put on during the past summer, and was carried away by the late freshet.

The Committees on Water in the Councils feel the responsibility resting upon them as regards the safety and efficiency of the several water-works of the city, and composed as they are of intelligent and practical men, there need be no apprehension on the part of our citizens as to the bestowal of timely attentions to the department. With some provisions for affording a better supply of water in some portions of Spring Garden and of Penn, a plan for which has been submitted by the Chief Engineer, nothing will be wanting to make the Water Department not only satisfactory in all respects to our citizens, but the pride and boast of our city.

the principal of the ground rent on the site of the building, (\$48,000,) which is extinguishable by the company whenever they deem it desirable, but which cannot be collected by the grantor. There are \$250,000 of common stock, each five shares of \$100 each entitling the holder to a free admission to the performances. There are, besides, about \$56,000 of preferred stock, entitled to eight per cent. per annum, payable if earned out of the net profits of the year, all expenses being first paid, and a provision made for reasonable contingencies. It is believed that the company will, if no unforeseen contingencies arise, be able to pay this dividend out of the profits of the present year. The lease of the building to Mr. Marshall commenced on the 1st of February, 1857, and will expire on the 31st of July, 1858.

These are the main facts of the annual report, and it will be seen that they are of the most flattering character. It is not to be doubted that the fortunate condition of things is to be ascribed altogether to the excellent management of the company, the unwearied personal supervision of the building committee, and the skill and taste of the architects, Messrs. LeBrun and Runge. The Board of Directors, as now constituted, is as follows:—James C. Hand, John B. Budd, Charles Henry Fisher, George S. Pepper, Frederick Graeff, Samuel Branson, John P. Steiner, Isaac S. Waterman, Lyon J. Levy, Ferdinand J. Dreer and Fairman Rogers. The Building Committee, under whose direction the edifice was constructed, were Messrs. George S. Pepper, James C. Hand, Frederick Graeff, Samuel Branson and John P. Steiner.—They have reason to look with pride upon the result of their labours, since it has procured for Philadelphia an opera house not surpassed anywhere in the world.

Philadelphia, Monday, August 11, 1856.

LOCAL AFFAIRS.

The Opera House.—The immense building intended for the American Academy of Music, or Opera House, at the corner of Broad and Locust streets, is now so rapidly approaching completion that there can be no doubt that it will be ready for inauguration on or before the coming first of January. The stage portion begins to present to the uninitiated an insight into all the mysteries of stage construction, with its ghost traps, falls and tacking; and many of the wonderful changes of scenery, as presented from the auditorium of a theatre, become very simple when the machinery to produce them is examined. A space of about 60 feet, under the front of the stage, has been excavated to the depth of 26 feet. This is divided into two offices, the floor of each being ingeniously constructed in sections, so as to allow of their being entirely removed and replaced in a very short space of time. A great part of the area thus covered is likewise formed in such a manner as to be raised above the ground level of the stage floor, so as to form bridges, &c., for the actors when mountain scenery is required. The whole area of the stage is 90 feet wide by 72 feet deep, exclusive of the proscenium, which is 38 feet wide, making a total depth of 90 feet, which will certainly make a magnificent area for the most splendid dramatic representations. The carpentering and entire arrangement of the stage, was entrusted to Mr. Johnson, of Boston, who is referred to be thoroughly versed in the most perfect and improved systems of this distinct branch of work. The main doors on each side of the stage are made large enough for the admission of horses, carriages, and even elephants, which may be required, as these huge animals have lately taken part in a piece represented in Paris, where oriental scenery was introduced. The dressing rooms on either side are very numerous, well lighted and commodious. The green room and the retiring room for the dancers are quite large.

The platforms for the seats in the auditorium are finished, and it is quite evident from a personal inspection that the promises of the architects, Messrs. Le Brun and Runge, that all the audience, no matter in what part of the house, would have an unobstructed view of the stage, are about to be fully realized. The dome over this part of the house is of novel construction, being formed of light ribs of wrought iron, with the spaces between them filled with iron net or wire work, upon which the plastering is laid. This fire-proof construction was deemed necessary on account of the great heat that will be generated by the three hundred gas lights attached to the main chandelier, suspended immediately beneath it.

The main vestibule along the Broad street front is 30 feet by 90, with stairways at each end 14 feet in width. The promenade saloon immediately over the vestibule is 40 feet by 90, with a ceiling 35 feet in height. This room will be truly magnificent and will far exceed in architectural beauty and proportion any other room in our city. The numerous Ionic columns intended to decorate the walls are ready to be placed in their positions as soon as the scaffoldings are removed, which will be shortly, as the ceiling is now nearly completed. This room is to be lighted by ten chandeliers suspended from the intersections of the grained ceiling, in addition to the brackets on the walls. This saloon is well adapted for banquets, balls or morning concerts; one can judge of the large scale on which this establishment is constructed, when it is stated that there will be over 30,000 feet of steam pipes through the building for heating and ventilating purposes alone. The contract for this work has been given to Messrs. Walworth, of Boston, who have been highly successful in the numerous large public buildings they have warmed and ventilated. The ventilation will be forced by means of a steam engine and a fan 12 feet in diameter, by means of which pure tempered air can be forced in or out as required. The gas lights along the walls also aid the ventilation by having openings alongside into the flues connect-

John Schlee came over from Germany with Kelpius, and was also a man of learning. He remained with Kelpius until his death, in 1708, and then it seems a controversy arose among the Hermits about matrimony, they having previously held to the doctrine of celibacy. The dispute grew so warm that the band was dispersed, some marrying, and the others going to Ephrata. It was about this time that Schlee went and took up his residence on the farm of William Levering, near the present Roxborough Baptist Church. The tradition in the Levering family is, that he resided on that farm, and was quite intimate in that family,—which tradition is confirmed by a recent discovery by Mr. Jones, of the will of that Hermit, by which it appears that he gave all his property to "his friend, William Levering, senior, of Roxborough," and appointed the said Levering his Executor. Schlee died April 26th, 1745, as appears from the Family Bible of the Leverings, in which it is registered.—Schlee was of a meditative and mystical turn of mind—and the inventory of his personal effects shows that he doubtless possessed some knowledge of the occult sciences. He had "5 Bibles, 14 Books, 10 of Jacob Boehmen's Books, and 120 Latin, Dutch and Greek Books."

Although Christopher Witt lived for many years and died at Germantown, yet Mr. Jones considered him entitled to notice, as he showed that he had lived with the Hermits of the Ridge as one of their number. Witt was a physician of some eminence and came to America in the year 1704. He was also a diviner and very superstitious in some of his notions. It was conclusively proved that he was a Naturalist and a Botanist—and a friend of John Bartram and Peter Collinson,—with the latter of whom he corresponded. Extracts were read from Bartram's letters to Collinson, in which very interesting references were made to Dr. Witt. About the year 1753, when 83 years of age, Dr. Witt lost his eyesight;—and in July, 1761, Bartram said of him—"Poor old man! he was lately in my garden, but could not distinguish a leaf from a flower." He died in January, 1765, at the age of 90, according to Mr. Watson.

Mr. Jones then gave a brief sketch of the Monastery of the Wissahiccon, a large three storied stone mansion, about a mile above the Red Bridge, now owned by Mr. William Kitchen. It was said to have been built by a certain Joseph Gorgas, between the years 1748 and 1752, but an extract was read from the Ephrata Chronicle, which stated that in the year 1737 the Seventh Day Baptists built a house in a valley one mile from Germantown, where a number of pious people lived for some time, and it was suggested that reference might have been had to this very building.

The length of our report forbids any further details of Mr. Jones's paper, which closed with some valuable and interesting anecdotes of the American Revolution, in connexion with the people of Roxborough.

He claimed for Roxborough the honor of being the birth-place of David Rittenhouse, the American Astronomer, and he said that the roof-tree of the house where Capt. Edward J. De Haven, the commander of the Grinnell Expedition, passed his early years, was still to be seen on the Ridge Road.

The reading of the paper occupied considerably more than an hour, and at its conclusion, the Society adjourned. FRANK M. ETTING,
Recording Secretary.

Business Affairs of the Academy of Music.

The people of Philadelphia have with reason been congratulating themselves on the success of the new opera house, the perfection of which, in every essential point, has been acknowledged by all who have seen it. After some fifty operative performances, which have been profitable to all concerned, it may, without presumption, be concluded that the public of Philadelphia have the will as well as the ability to sustain the opera, and this being determined, we may inquire into the business prospects of the Academy of Music. The report of the Directors, submitted to the Stockholders at their late annual meeting, furnishes us with some facts in regard to those that are interesting. It gives a brief history of their work since the building was commenced, from which we learn that ground was first broken on the 18th of June, 1855, and on the 26th of July of the same year the corner stone was laid, with appropriate ceremonies, by Mayor Conrad, who delivered an address on the occasion. In December, 1856, the building was entirely completed, and equipped with scenery and properties for the production of a number of operas. The heating and ventilating apparatus are costly and most complete. There is a powerful steam pump, with accessories, and steam is kept on in the boilers, night and day, throughout the year, so as to afford prompt action to the pump in case of fire. After an experience of several months, the Directors declare that there are no defects to remedy nor improvements to suggest. The building is undoubtedly the strongest and most substantial of the kind in America. As for its adaptation to its purpose, and the perfection of its construction for seeing and hearing, as well as for the comfortable accommodation of an audience of three thousand people, these are points satisfactorily demonstrated during the late operative season.

The entire cost of the building, including furniture, scenery, gas-fixtures, &c., was \$271,000, and all the obligations of the company are paid, except