



WILLIAM PENN, "THE QUAKER SOLDIER."

*From Line Engraving by S. A. Schoff, in possession of The Historical
Society of Pennsylvania.*

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QUAINT CORNERS

IN PHILADELPHIA

WITH ONE HUNDRED AND
SEVENTY-FOUR ILLUSTRATIONS. By JOSEPH PENNELL
AND OTHERS ❧ ❧ ❧ ❧

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JOHN WANAMAKER

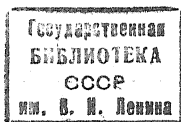
PHILADELPHIA

NEW YORK

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PREFACE TO THE NEW EDITION.

WHEN this book was first issued, in 1883, it gave a faithful presentation of the Philadelphia of that day. But cities, like human faces, lay aside their old features, and Philadelphia forms no exception. The "Quaint Corners" remain much as they were, but corners less quaint and newer are constantly being added. We would not, in justice to impartial truth, remove the old. The past must always be left to form the background of the present. Idealities do not change, and the essentials are immortal. Much of this volume is purely historic. It is a gallery in whose quaint corners are hung the faded pictures of the generations that laid the foundations of the "Sylvan City." But we would not ignore the fact that there is a revised and enlarged Philadelphia—a new edition that demands our notice. Perhaps no American city, within sixteen years, has undergone a greater change. The old conventional Philadelphia house will soon be a reminiscence. Philadelphia continues to be distinctively, as we hope it ever may, the "City of Homes;" but those homes, like their inhabitants, have their own individual existence. The same magic wand that has touched the dwelling has also transformed the markets and the business centres. The concentration of trade has made the high building a

necessity. Where once twenty buildings stood side by side, now they are constructed one upon the other. Business is conducted in the air and commerce goes on among the clouds. The railway engine no longer halts on the outskirts of the city, but is driven close to our very doors. No one arrives at Philadelphia ; he arrives in it, and, passing through a depot-palace, steps upon streets smooth as a floor of asphalt. Philadelphia is justly proud of its streets. The old cobble-stone is fast becoming a recollection, and, with two hundred and fifty miles of asphalt, it is, perhaps, the best-paved city in the world. In addition to this, there is an electric railway system which is unexcelled by any other city. The suburbs have been beautified beyond description, and localities once inaccessible now contain some of the most attractive homes.

The public institutions have grown in response to the demands of a new and better age. In our first edition we found it necessary to say that, with the exception of the Mercantile, we had no library where all the departments of literature were represented. That statement, true then, would be misleading and false to-day. The same old honored institutions that perpetuate the names of Logan, Franklin and Rush still abide, like so many benedictions, among the people. But, in addition to these, Philadelphia has the largest active circulating library in the world. The growth of this educational feature seems like the work of magic. By a will executed November 30, 1889, the late Geo. S. Pepper, Esquire,