

## THE CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE

Matthew Arnold, writing home from Philadelphia more than thirty years ago, intimated that its trees contributed as much as its people in making that city the most attractive he had seen in America. And its embellishment of trees has been seized upon to produce the charm of picturesqueness in quite half of the hundred and more beautiful lithographs with which Joseph Pennell illustrates his wife's account of *Our Philadelphia*. But whether they contain trees or not his pictures are among the best drawings that this prolific draftsman has ever published. Each is a more or less idealized and etherealized transcript of some spot or aspect of a city which the artist has found beautiful because he loves it. By a deft combination of weather and light conditions with the right point of view Mr. Pennell succeeds in making even skyscrapers, railway yards, the William Penn statue, and the Broad Street Station attractively picturesque.

Charming as are the pictures that

adorn the book they are no whit more delightful than the story Mrs. Pennell tells. This is largely an autobiography, the story of her childhood, youth and young womanhood, of her family and friends, of the narrowly circumscribed Philadelphia she knew before she met Joseph Pennell and of how he revealed to her the beauty of streets and houses she had not known before. She gives delightful glimpses of Walt Whitman, George H. Boker, Dr. Horace Howard Furness, George W. Childs, and many another. The final chapters are devoted to impressions of a Philadelphia revisited after a quarter of a century. To Mrs. Pennell the Philadelphia of her girlhood is beautified by the golden light of memory, and she writes of it all with love and joy, and with a quietly bubbling humor.

In telling how she came to love it, she pays this tribute to the city:

I had to work to learn that Philadelphia had worked, and still worked, and worked so well as to be the first to have given America much that is best and most vital in the country—the first to show the right way with its schools and hospitals and libraries and newspapers and galleries and museums, the leader in the fight for liberty of conscience, the scene of the first Colonial Congress and the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the Centennial Exposition to commemorate it, a pioneer in science and industry and manufacture—a town upon which all the others in the land could not do better than model themselves—while all the time it maintained its fine air of calm that perplexes the stranger and misleads the native. But I had found it out, found out its greatness, before age had dimmed my perceptions and dulled my power of appreciation; and to find Philadelphia out is to love it.

Pictures and text together, here is a record of the old Philadelphia that has passed and the new Philadelphia that is passing, for which not alone Philadelphians but all true Americans may be grateful.

*Our Philadelphia*, described by Elizabeth Robins Pennell; illustrated with 105 lithographs by Joseph Pennell. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. \$7.50 net.