

THE  
AMERICAN HISTORY  
AND  
ENCYCLOPEDIA  
OF  
MUSIC

W. L. HUBBARD  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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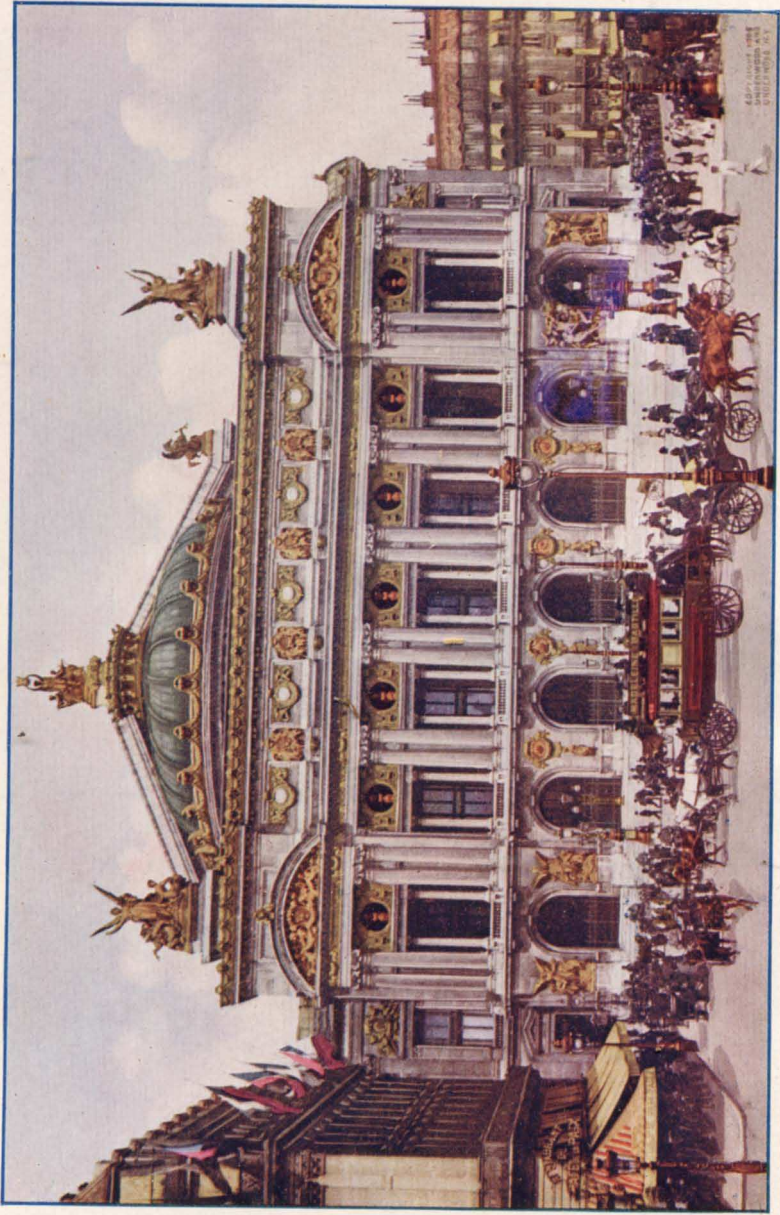
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IRVING SQUIRE  
Toledo  
New York      Chicago



## THE GRAND OPERA, PARIS.

**The** most costly and magnificent of all opera houses. This sumptuous edifice bears the inscription "Academie Nationale de Musique." Designed by Charles Garnier, it was begun in 1861 and completed in 1874. It is the largest theater building in the world, covering an area of nearly three acres, but it contains seats for only 2,156 persons. Its cost was \$10,000,000. The French government grants \$60,000 per year for its maintenance. The foyer is one of the sights of Paris. It is one hundred and ninety feet in length. Its grand staircase of white marble is fitted with boxes or balconies from which the visitor may survey the passing throng. The theater itself is dwarfed to a certain extent by the spacious approaches, and is rather overladen with decoration. There are four tiers of boxes, the gallery making a fifth story. The stage is the largest in the world.

**It holds first position among playhouses and is the pride of the French nation.**

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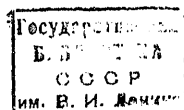
WITH  
INTRODUCTION  
BY  
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EDITOR

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