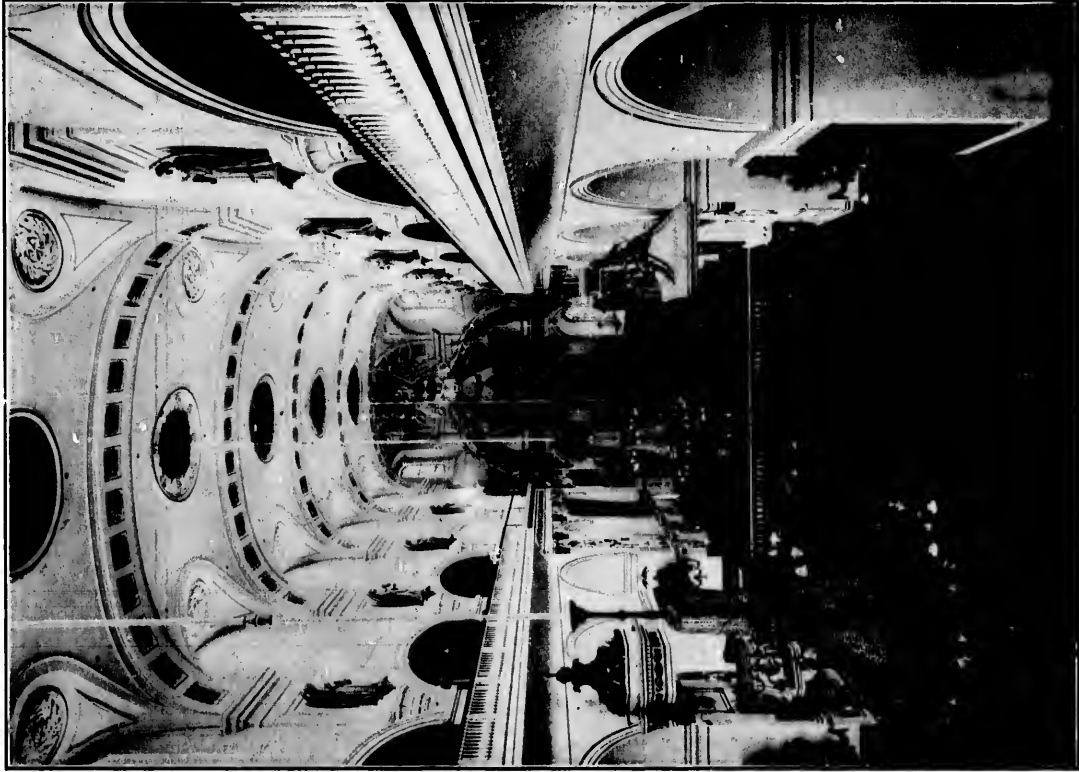


A wonderful mediæval edifice, ancient in its construction, the form of its towers, its cupolas and the peculiar shape of the roof. It is the picturesqueness and the grandeur of the interior that have made St. Peter's Basilica famous. The walls are decorated with many of the old masters' best works of art. Work was commenced on the construction in 1477. The first mass was celebrated in 1665 and the church was consecrated in 1666. It was badly damaged in 1756 by the British bombardment. In 1874 it was raised to the rank of Basilica. Its diameter is a copy of St. Peter's at Rome. Its length is 216 feet and width 108 feet, with a seating capacity of 4,000 people.



Interior of the Basilica Church

It is quite impossible to describe the elaborateness of the decorations of this building. The statuary and painting are most remarkable objects of historic interest, some of which were conveyed from France to Canada by the British in 1756. Some of the vestments were the gifts of former kings and queens of France.