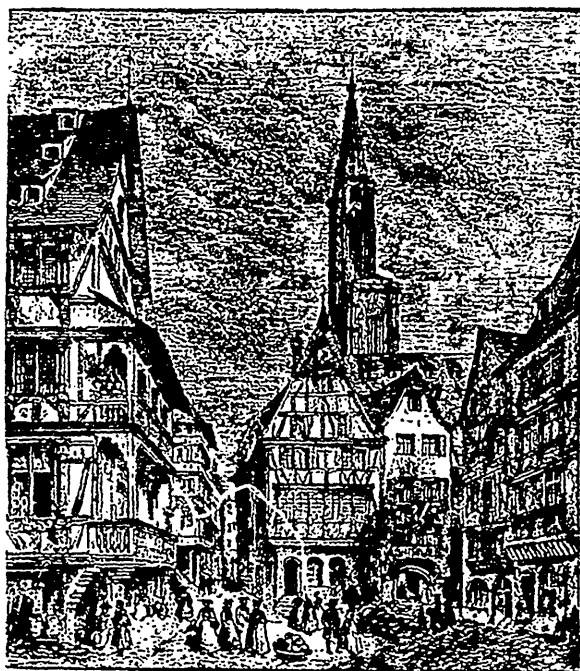


upon this spot, but the present structure was begun in 1179. The western façade, with its great rose window, forty-two feet across, its "stone lace-work," and canopied niches, is the work of the famous architect, Erwin Von Steinbach. Among the statues is an impressive group of the Seven Virtues trampling under their feet the Seven Vices. Two huge towers flank the façade. Between them is a large stone platform, two hundred and sixteen feet from the ground, from which is obtained a magnificent view of the



STREET IN STRASBURG.

town at our feet, with its storks' nests on the roofs, its walls and ramparts, and in the distance the Vosges Mountains, the Black Forest and Jura range. From the platform rises the open stone spire, to a height of four hundred and sixty-nine feet. The scars and grooves made by the Prussian cannon balls, fired during the ten weeks' siege, are plainly seen on the stone. The massive cross on the top is that which Longfellow in his "Golden Legend" represents the Powers of the Air as striving, in a midnight tempest, to tear down.

The spire is a masterpiece of taste and skill, built of hewn stone