



LIBBY PRISON, RICHMOND, VA.

Probably no spot identified with the war is more familiar by name than the celebrated Libby Prison at Richmond. Some of its importance in the annals of the war is derived from the fact that only commissioned officers were imprisoned there, while the privations to which these unfortunates were subjected during their incarceration in the middle of a thriving city have made the story of Libby Prison a tragedy and a reproach. It stood on the Lynchburg Canal, near the James River, in the heart of Richmond. Formerly a ship-chandler's warehouse, it was built of brick, was 105 by 140 feet on the ground floor, and was divided into nine rooms, each 45 by 105 feet. Here the prisoners were packed in to far beyond the capacity of the quarters. Many thrilling escapes were effected by the prisoners, the most notable being that of Colonel Rose's tunnel, which was dug underground from the further end of the building, as shown in the picture, by means of which about 100 officers got out of the building, half of whom reached the Union lines in safety.