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SOME ACCOUNT

OF

DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE

IN

ENGLAND,

FROM THE EARLIEST PERIODS

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS OF EXISTING REMAINS
FROM ORIGINAL DRAWINGS.

BY

THE EDITOR OF "THE GLOSSARY OF ARCHITECTURE."

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PART I.
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AND 377, STRAND, LONDON:

JOHN HENRY AND JAMES PARKER.

M DCCC LIX.

PREFACE.

MORE than twenty years have elapsed since the Editor of the present work first put forth the "Glossary of Architecture." One object of that work was to awaken the attention of the clergy and the educated classes generally to the merits and beauties of Medieval ecclesiastical architecture by numerous pictorial representations of the characteristic details of the buildings of each succeeding century, and to afford such information as would facilitate the study of the true principles of the Gothic style.

The object of the present work is also in part to do for the houses of our ancestors what the "Glossary" has done for their churches,—to awaken the attention of their owners and of all who are concerned in them, to the value and importance of those remains which are daily disappearing from our eyes,—to bring public opinion to bear upon the subject,—and to cry shame upon the noblemen and gentlemen who wantonly destroy, or allow their agents to destroy, valuable relics of ancient art, or historical memorials of the highest interest and value.

But if these works have had any practical effect it has been in a great degree incidental; their primary object was historical, to accustom people to remember the dates of the different styles, and to connect them with the history of their respective periods. The "Glossary" was the first work in which an attempt was made to apply Rickman's system and assign dates to several hundred examples by the style only, where historical

dates were not forthcoming. Many of these dates have been confirmed by subsequent investigation, and very few have been found to be erroneous.

At the present time, also, there seems a desire among the more educated classes of the country to enquire for themselves into the claims which different styles of architecture have upon us; and there is no doubt the more the architectural history of the country is studied, the more it will become apparent not only that English Gothic was a style by itself, and most suitable for the requirements of this climate and this country in the Middle Ages; but also that with fair and proper development and adaptation it is still the most suited to meet the various requirements of the present time.

The Editor has endeavoured to obtain as much information from personal observation as possible, because experience and the habit of comparing one building with another have enabled him to see and understand the meaning and use of fragments which others might perhaps overlook. But he has not scrupled to avail himself of every other means in his power of obtaining such information as he required, either by the help of friends or of books; and he has made free use of the various county histories in endeavouring to ascertain what remains there are of the various houses or castles for which the "licences to crenellate" are recorded. This part of his work has been the most difficult and the least satisfactory, for the authors of those works were seldom possessed of the simple key to the dates of buildings which is now possessed by every one who has enjoyed a liberal education, and as they often made no distinction between the remains of a building of the twelfth century and one of the fifteenth, their information cannot always be

relied upon. In this manner the Editor was led into a few mistakes in the notices of existing remains in the second volume, and he can hardly expect to have escaped altogether in the present one, although his experience has led him to use greater caution in dealing with the works of authors of the last generation.

The first volume of this work bore the name of the late Mr. Hudson Turner, who had been employed to search the Records which were indispensable for the proper understanding of that early period. His thorough acquaintance with these documents rendered his services invaluable, and it was felt to be a fitting compliment to place his name in the title-page, although he was, in fact, only one of several persons employed upon the work, and the present Editor is responsible for the architectural portion of that volume also.

In the second volume, which was printed after the death of Mr. Turner, the Editor was responsible not only for the architectural portion, but for much of the documentary information, which was collected in order to throw light upon the manners and customs of the Middle Ages, as explanatory of the uses to which the different parts of the buildings were applied. The materials which Mr. Turner left behind were far from sufficient for this purpose, and he had therefore to take a far more prominent part in the production of the work than he had originally intended. He was, however, ably assisted by numerous friends on whose knowledge of these subjects he could rely.

For the present volume he is obliged to accept a still greater share of the responsibility: nearly the whole of the documentary portion has been collected by himself, assisted by his son and by friends. He has to record his

obligations to E. A. Freeman, Esq., for many architectural notes; to George Ormerod, Esq., the venerable and respected historian of Cheshire, for useful historical information; to the Messrs. Buckler for the free use of their valuable collection of drawings, and for many notices of existing remains which had escaped other observers; and most of the friends whose names have been mentioned in the previous volumes have again assisted him. Visits to Scotland in the summer of 1857, and to Ireland in 1858, have enabled him to add chapters on the chief peculiarities of the Domestic Architecture of those countries, which were omitted in the previous volumes.

The number of houses of the fifteenth century which remain in all parts of Europe, and the different character of them in each country and each province, renders it impossible to include those of Foreign countries in the present volume, which has already exceeded the limits prescribed for it, and the Editor has been reluctantly compelled to omit the numerous Foreign examples which he had collected.

France alone affords ample materials for a separate work on the subject, but this want has been in some degree supplied both by the excellent work of M. Verdier, and the concise popular volume of M. de Caumont, both of which have appeared since the present undertaking was commenced. Germany, Italy, and Belgium would each afford materials for a similar work.

He is indebted to M. Viollet-le-Duc of Paris for the following interesting letter on the subject of the Domestic Architecture of France in the fifteenth century, which affords so much information in a short space, and gives the result of so much experience and ob-

servation in an unpretending form, that he cannot refrain from giving it publicity here, although it may be considered somewhat out of place:—

“ Paris, 31 Mars, 1859.

“ CHER MONSIEUR,

“ Vous savez que les deux premiers tiers du *xv^e*. siècle ont été, chez nous, employés à nous battre tantôt contre les Bourguignons tantôt contre les Anglais, tantôt contre Bourguignons et Anglais réunis. Les bourgeois des villes, dans ces temps des misères publiques, n'ont eu ni le loisir, ni l'argent nécessaire pour rebâtir des maisons neuves. Ils avaient leur affaire de conserver celles qui leur restaient; aussi n'est-ce guère qu'à dater du règne de Louis *xi.* que nous voyons des maisons neuves s'élever dans les villes du nord et du centre de la France. C'est à dire à partir de la 2^e. moitié du *xv^e*. siècle.

“ Il existe encore à Chartres quelques morceaux des maisons de cette époque. Il en existaient autres à Tours et à Angers.

“ Vous connaissez l'hôtel de ville d'Orléans bâti sous le règne de Charles *vii.* et qui présente cette particularité curieuse d'une construction du milieu du *xv^e*. siècle dans laquelle on trouve déjà tous les éléments de l'architecture de notre Renaissance développée sous Louis *xii.*: c'est aujourd'hui le musée d'Orléans.

“ A Rouen beaucoup de maisons de la fin du *xv^e*. siècle existent encore, mais ces maisons sont fort mutilées. Cependant elles donnent une haute idée de l'art appliquée aux habitations de cette époque.

“ A Gallardon, sur l'ancienne route de Chartres, il existait encore il y a quelques années, dans la grande rue, une belle maison du *xv^e*. siècle en bois; je ne sais si elle est conservée aujourd'hui.

“ A Reims, sur l'ancienne grande place, on voit encore deux jolies maisons en bois du *xv^e*. siècle (1470 environ).

“ A Paris nous possédons encore l'hôtel de Sens, qui date du règne de Louis *xi.* mais fort mutilé.

“ A Beauvais, une grande partie de l'ancien évêché (palais de justice aujourd'hui) date de cette époque.

“ A Nevers, vous voyez l'ancien palais des Ducs, qui vient d'être restauré et qui date des dernières années du *xv^e*. siècle.

“ Je n'ai pas besoin de vous citer la maison de Jacques Cœur à Bourges qui donne un magnifique spécimen de l'architecture privée du milieu du *xv^e*. siècle.

“ Dans le midi, à Cordes il existe encore dans la grande rue, des

maisons du *xv^e* siècle; on en trouve des restes à Saint Antonin, à Caylus, à Caussade, à Toulouse, à Alby. Mais tout cela est fort gâté. Quelques restes assez curieux à Montferrand près Clermont, au Puy en Velay, à Issoire. * * * *

“Tout à vous comme toujours si vous avez besoin de moi

“Et mille amitiés.

“E. VIOLLET-LE-DUC.”

In conclusion, the Editor can only hope that the present work will in some measure assist towards the attainment of his object, and that in future the remains of the houses of our ancestors will be as well looked after and as carefully studied as our ancient churches have recently been. Several of the fine structures engraved in this work have actually been destroyed during its progress through the press: so marked and so disastrous in its results has been the general apathy on the subject. He trusts that the rest may be spared, and that as monuments of our national history, if on no other grounds, we may hand them down in at least as perfect a state as we received them. He will hope, also, that the same improvement will take place in the erection of new houses and public buildings during the next twenty-five years that may be observed in the churches built during the last quarter of a century.

THE TURL, OXFORD,

JULY 20, 1859.

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