

**CHURCH ARCHITECTURE  
CONSIDERED, IN RELATION TO  
THE MIND OF THE CHURCH SINCE  
AND BEFORE THE REFORMATION:  
IN TWO ADDRESSES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649030002

Church Architecture Considered, in Relation to the Mind of the Church Since and Before the Reformation: In Two Addresses by Richard Mant

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Cover @ 2017

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**RICHARD MANT**

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CHURCH ARCHITECTURE  
CONSIDERED,

IN

RELATION TO THE MIND OF THE CHURCH SINCE  
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IN

TWO ADDRESSES,

DELIVERED ON

THE 7TH OF FEBRUARY AND THE 7TH OF MARCH, 1843,

TO THE

DOWN AND CONNOR AND DROMORE  
CHURCH ARCHITECTURE SOCIETY,

BY THE LORD BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE,

PRESIDENT:

AND PRINTED AT THE SOCIETY'S REQUEST.

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"We ought greatly to rejoice and give God thanks, that our Churches are delivered out of all those things which displeased God so sore, and filthily defiled his holy house and his place of prayer..... that such superstitious and idolatrous manners as were utterly naught, and defaced God's glory, are utterly abolished, as they most justly deserved; and yet those things, that either God was honoured with, or his people edified, are decently retained, and in our Churches countly practised."—*Second Part of the Homily of the Place and Time of Prayer.*

BELFAST:

GEORGE PHILLIPS, BRIDGE-STREET.

GRANT & BOLTON, DUBLIN; RIVINGTONS, LONDON; J. H. PARKER,  
OXFORD; STEVENSON, CAMBRIDGE.

1843.



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PRINTED AT THE CLSTER TIMES OFFICE, ARTHUR-PLACE AND  
GEORGE'S-LANE, BELFAST.

## INTRODUCTORY NOTICE.

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ONE of the most pleasurable and profitable intellectual features of the present day is the study of Ecclesiastical Architecture: a study not only free from all rational objection, but deserving the attention of all those, who, with opportunities for cultivating, have understandings capable of enjoying it, and feelings which prompt them to promote God's honour by the improvement of the places consecrated to his worship.

Favourable opportunities for prosecuting this study are but of late date. Before Mr. Warton put forth his celebrated note in his "Observations on the Faerie Queen of Spencer," the subject of our national mediæval Architecture was little regarded by the British publick. He was followed by the Rev. J. Bentham, in his *History of Ely Cathedral*; by Captain Gross, in his *Preface to the Antiquities of England*; and by the Rev. J. Milner, in his *History and Antiquities of Winchester*. I recollect the time when the publication of these Essays in a collective form by Mr. Taylor, at the Architectural Library, Holborn, in 1800,

was received with much gratification by those who were desirous of information on the subject; and the collection, scanty and imperfect as it was, became the chief guide to their inquiries.

Early in this century the publication of these Essays was followed by more scientifick, better digested, and more copious and valuable works: such as Mr. Carter's folio volume on the "Ancient Architecture of England;" Mr. Britton's series on our "Architectural Antiquities" and "Cathedrals;" the Rev. George Millers' "Cathedral of Ely;" Mr. Rickman's "Attempt to discriminate the styles of English Architecture;" Mr. Kendall's "Elucidation of the principles of English Architecture;" Messrs. Neale and Le Keux's "Views of Collegiate and Parochial Churches;" with others, down to the present period, wherein continual accessions have been made, and are making, to the means of improvement possessed by the Architectural Student.

Meanwhile a fresh impulse, and accumulated funds of knowledge, have been contributed by several associations of individuals in pursuit of the same object. For this end two Societies have been instituted with congenial character in the two Universities of England, and others in several of the English Dioceses. Hitherto the taste has shown itself in Ireland but in a single instance. As, however, there is unquestionably room for the improvement of Ecclesiastical Architecture in this portion of the empire, so we may trust that opportunities will not be wanting for its cultivation.



The obvious courses, in which Architectural inquiries are apt to proceed, are those of studying and comparing the different styles; of ascertaining their ages; of marking their peculiarities; of defining their boundaries and unfolding their intertexture; of tracing them through their several gradations; of applying them to practical use in the restoration of aged and decayed edifices, in the correction of such as have been depraved by injurious treatment, and in the construction of new fabricks on sound principles and after approved models.

But, besides these general purposes, there are two in particular which appear specially worthy of the attention of the Architectural Student.

1. At the era of the Reformation, much alteration was introduced into the economy of our Churches. Whilst many provisions, which had previously existed in them, were annulled, many were nevertheless retained; and upon these latter others of fresh enactment were engrafted. An accurate acquaintance with these things is requisite in the members of the Church, so that we may not deviate into the adoption of what she approves not, or into the rejection of what she approves, in the structure, furniture, and disposition of her buildings. To the establishment and elucidation of this principle, the former of the two following treatises is applied.

2. The other purpose, to which I alluded, is the light which may be thrown on the condition of the Church before

the Reformation, by a study of her architecture. As her provisions since that period have been adapted to the purified simplicity of her doctrine and worship, so her previous provisions are palpable and tangible arguments of her former errors and corruptions. The stoups, the lavatories, and the aumbreys; the rood-lofts, the images, and the shrines; the canopies and the chapels and the altars; the Easter sepulchres and the confessionals; in a word, all the particulars which distinguish the former from the actual condition of our places of worship, are so many examples of the Romish departure from God's truth. The second of these treatises is devoted to the illustration of this argument.

By such examples as these proof is given, that, besides in its relation to Architectural beauty and excellence, the study of Church Architecture is valuable in its relation to purity of doctrine and conformity of worship. The two following treatises, which convey an exposition of these views, having been delivered at meetings of the Down and Connor and Dromore Church Architecture Society, are now printed at their request: the Society having, as I understand, by such request expressed a general concurrence in the sentiments of the treatises, however the responsibility for individual positions may rest more particularly on the author: who, in further exposition of his sentiments on certain collateral matters, takes the liberty of referring the reader to "The Beauty of Holiness," a sermon, preached

by him at the consecration of *St. James's Chapel of Ease*, in the parish of *Hillsborough*, December 30, 1842; and published at the request of the Marquis of Downshire, and others of the respectable Laity, as well as Clergy, of the diocese, in the same form as the two following treatises.

In exemplification of some of the remarks advanced in the former of the two treatises, engravings are introduced, for the most part from national specimens. No. 1, is an imaginary ground plan for a small building, agreeing with the Church's rules and principles in its direction, structure, furniture, and arrangement. No. 2, is the west end of the interior of *Armagh Cathedral*, with the baptismal font near the entrance. No. 3, is the east end, with the chancel, of *Hillsborough Church*. No. 4, shows the communion plate of *Dromore Cathedral*, the gift, partly of the wife of Bishop *Jeremy Taylor*, and partly of one of his successors in that bishoprick. No. 5, is the interior of the Church of *Donagheloney*, or *Waringstown*, presenting the pulpit and reading pew, together with the general accommodation for the congregation, and the handsome raftered roof. In No. 6, are introduced specimens of open seats, such as are described in the treatise: the simpler forms from an *English Church*, *Sabridgeworth*, *Hertfordshire*, in default of an *Irish specimen*; those with the ornamented finials from the *Cathedral of Armagh*. I ought to add, that these illustrations have been introduced on the suggestion