

that their life and progress will in some degree be measured by their production of such works. The metropolitan male school has some excellent designs for lace, for book-covers, for metal work, and for various textile fabrics; for the most part perfectly practicable, and evincing a satisfactory share of novelty and invention, and a large prevalence of skilful training. The metropolitan female school also exhibits many ingenious and fanciful designs for lace, some chaste and clever carpet designs, as well as some for table linen, and for ladies' dresses; and it is evident that the study of the ornament of the Indian fabrics in the Great Exhibition, before spoken of, is producing a sensible impression on the works of the students, and that they are alive to the just principles of design, which are the characteristic of Eastern ornament. The designs from Glasgow, which are cleverly and dexterously executed, consist too much of mere re-combinations of known materials, and this often without consistency either in the combination of the ornament, or in its application to the fabric. Belfast, Dublin, Norwich, Newcastle, Paisley, and Spitalfields schools have also contributed designs of varied merit. The modelled designs from Staks and Hanley have already been remarked upon. Sheffield is this year a large contributor of designs for metal work, some of which have been successfully modelled, and some exhibited in a manufactured state: they are clever and inventive, and of more than average merit. Manchester, which is also a large contributor in this class, is more successful in executive skill, and in seizing the prevailing taste of the local manufacture, than in any sensible effort in a right direction. The large panels exhibited are erroneous in their decorative taste, and false in their application of ornament for such purposes, the treatment being of a pictorial rather than of an ornamental character: as specimens of flower painting in tempera they are, however, very commendable. The designs for garment-fabrics, moreover, are too much in the imitative style which is the present fashion for such goods. If the manufacturer is to be benefited by the instruction given in schools of ornamental art, novelty, as an end, must not be aimed at, but must be the natural result of sound principles, carefully considered in relation to the fabric or material for which the designer labours; for it must be remembered, that in speaking of "the principles of ornament," the phrase ought to be considered as having a double relation; in the one case implying the principles which belong to style or period, such as the distribution and correspondence of parts, the quality or nature of the curves, the species of relief adopted, or the laws of combination which regulate the application of colour, and all that has reference to ornament purely as ornament; but that another and a very important meaning of the phrase relates to those principles which govern the application of ornament to materials and fabrics. To manufacturers and workmen the latter are at least of equal importance with those first named. These principles regulate the due subordination of the ornament to the material, and should be earnestly studied by and for the student. Thus the egregious misapplication of architectural stone ornament in relief to decorate carpets and table-covers, or of landscapes and pictures to muslin curtains, will gradually be disallowed, under however high authority it may have been perpetrated; and on the other hand, the mere imitations of flowers or foliage on garment fabrics or paper-hangings will be found as contrary to good taste as it certainly is to just principles. However harmonious the colours of a flower may be, or however graceful its form, when it takes new conditions these beauties must be conformed to the new relations. The form of the flower must be conventionalised to suit the fabric or material to which it is to be applied as ornament; while even from the laws of colour we learn, that however beautiful in this respect the object is in its natural state, it requires a peculiar treatment to suit it to the exigencies of the manufacturer, and the skill of the dyer or weaver; besides the necessity of being considered in relation to a constant recurrence of the pattern,

to the ground on which it is to be applied, and, above all, to the uses for which the fabric is intended. While it is necessary, however, that not only the principles of ornament should be understood and incalculated, but the true principles of its applications to given fabrics also, it must always be borne in mind that the object of these schools is not to produce designs or patterns in the prevailing taste of the time, but in accordance with defined laws, and with what is believed to be a juster taste, resulting from true principles, and quite irrespective of temporary fashions. Due attention to this will prevent any interference with the trade labours of the designers who frequent these schools; while the manufacturers will, it is hoped, be eventually led to adopt the taste and practice therein followed, rather than to fear that the thoughts and ideas of their designers will be abstracted from them in their school studies. It is to be hoped that a body of sound axioms on all these matters will gradually be compiled, and it will be the duty of the new department to inculcate their careful consideration; to watch that the labours of all the schools are carried on in conformity with them, and irrespective of the mere fashions of the day; and to endeavour gradually to disseminate a sounder taste, and to cultivate a juster discrimination in the general public.

11. In conclusion, it is necessary to urge on the attention of the masters that success is not to be measured by a school's sending up for inspection works in all the twenty-three classes into which its labours are divided, nor by the number of works shown in the most advanced of such classes, but from the evidence they contain, first, of a careful and thorough grounding in geometrical perspective and free-hand drawing, and in the careful and well-understood study of light and shadow, and good executive methods of shading and modelling; and, secondly, in the earnest and severe study of nature, as of flowers and foliage, as the source of new thoughts and graceful combinations, to which it is requisite to add a knowledge of the laws which regulate the harmonious distribution of colour.

In this view it is even necessary to seek to restrain the too much divided efforts of some schools, and to advise that the earlier classes, especially those constituting the study of ornament in relief, at Spitalfields, Belfast, York, Leeds, and Cork, and more especially at Coventry, should have a greater share of the master's attention, which might be better spared for the present from the more advanced figure classes; and to encourage the newly-founded schools at Macclesfield, Searisbury, and Worcester, steadily to pursue the course they have so well begun, and to be rather anxious to lay a solid foundation than to press the students onward to studies of more apparent but of far less real importance to their ultimate success.

RICHARD REDGRAVE.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Exeter, Devon.—On the 5th inst. the contractors, Messrs. Chick, of Beaminster, commenced taking down the body of St. Gennard's Church preparatory to its reconstruction and enlargement. The first stone of the new edifice was laid on Friday, 23rd inst. by Mr. William Jennings, of Exeter. The new structure which is to be in the style of the fifteenth century, and in accordance with that of the old church, includes a nave and north and south aisles. The walls are to be constructed of Forest marble, with dressings of Hamdon Hill stone. The roofs entirely of oak and covered with lead. It is to contain 400 worshippers, in open benches, also of oak with carved ends. The estimated outlay is £500, and includes the cost of restoring and strengthening the tower. It is much to be regretted that the chancel, which is in a miserable state, forms no part of the contemplated works: if allowed to remain as at present it will be detrimental to the general effect of the new church. The committee unfortunately have no control over this portion. The cost of these works will be defrayed by donations

from the Earl of Deveser of 400l. Mr. Jennings 400l. Mr. J. Crew Jennings 400l. and various other contributions. The architect employed to superintend the building is Mr. R. H. Shout, of Yeovil.

Longton, Staffordshire.—The corner-stone of St. Paul's Church, Ednesborough district, was laid on Thursday last, by John Ednesborough Heathcote, esq. lord of the manor of Longton, who is donor of the site, and a liberal contributor towards the expense of the building. The Rev. P. M. Walker is incumbent of the district, which contains a population of 4,370. The church will be erected from the design of Messrs. Ward and Son, by Messrs. Wilcox and Sons. The style will be Decorated. It will consist of a nave and chancel in one roof, 97 feet long together, and 23 feet wide; north and south aisles, 12½ feet wide each, and the length of the nave 69 feet; a south porch, and a steeple at the east end of the north aisle, to serve as vestry and organ-room, with the seats for the choir in front of it in the chancel, to which, and the north aisle, the tower will be open by arches. All the roofs will be of open timber, stained. The seats will be low and open, and also stained. The church will accommodate 549 on the floor, and there will be a gallery for children across the west end, accommodating 250, and having a staircase entered from without, and carried up as a turret. The church will be built of the red sandstone of the neighbourhood, the gift of the Duke of Sutherland.

Trowbridge.—On Friday last, the first stone of a new church, to be dedicated to St. John, was laid at Upper Soudley, in the parish of Trowbridge, under circumstances realising the couplet that he

"Who builds a church to God, and not to fame,
Will ever mark the marble with his name."

inasmuch as it is to be built at the sole cost of a friend unknown, who placed in the hands of the rector £2,000, viz. 1,000l. for a church, and 200l. for a schoolroom. The Earl Manvers granted for the same object, three acres of land for parsonage-house, glebe, church and burial ground, and school. Messrs. C. and R. Gane are the builders, and the plans were drawn under the superintendance of Mr. T. Clark, the younger, by Mr. W. H. Wilkins, architect.

Faversham.—The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of new national schools here took place on Thursday in last week.

Bitterne (Southampton).—The foundation-stone of a new church at Bitterne was laid on Monday week. The architect is Mr. George Guillaume. The workmen employed on the building afterwards assembled on the lawn at Midanbury (the residence of Mr. J. Osborne), where refreshments were provided for them, and various sports and amusements closed the day. The builder, Mr. William Gambing, has contracted to complete the church by the beginning of May next.

Torquay.—It is proposed to erect a consumption hospital here. Six hundred pounds have been collected by a lady towards a building fund, and about eight hundred more are required.

Upton-on-Severn.—At the Worcester Assizes an application was made to the Court on behalf of the inhabitants of Upton, that a fine should be imposed upon the county magistrates, to facilitate the erection of a new bridge, or to provide a temporary bridge till the new one should be completed. The application was grounded on the great inconvenience and expense at present sustained by the district in having to cross the Severn by a ferry-boat; and that differences of opinion existed among the magistrates as to the plans and mode of building the bridge, which warranted the conclusion that the erection of the bridge would be delayed.

Holywell.—The foundation-stone of Brynford Church Schools was laid on 13th inst. The schools are intended to contain about 120 boys and girls. They are to be furnished according to the requirements of the Committee of Privy Council on Education and that of the National Society. Attached will be a house