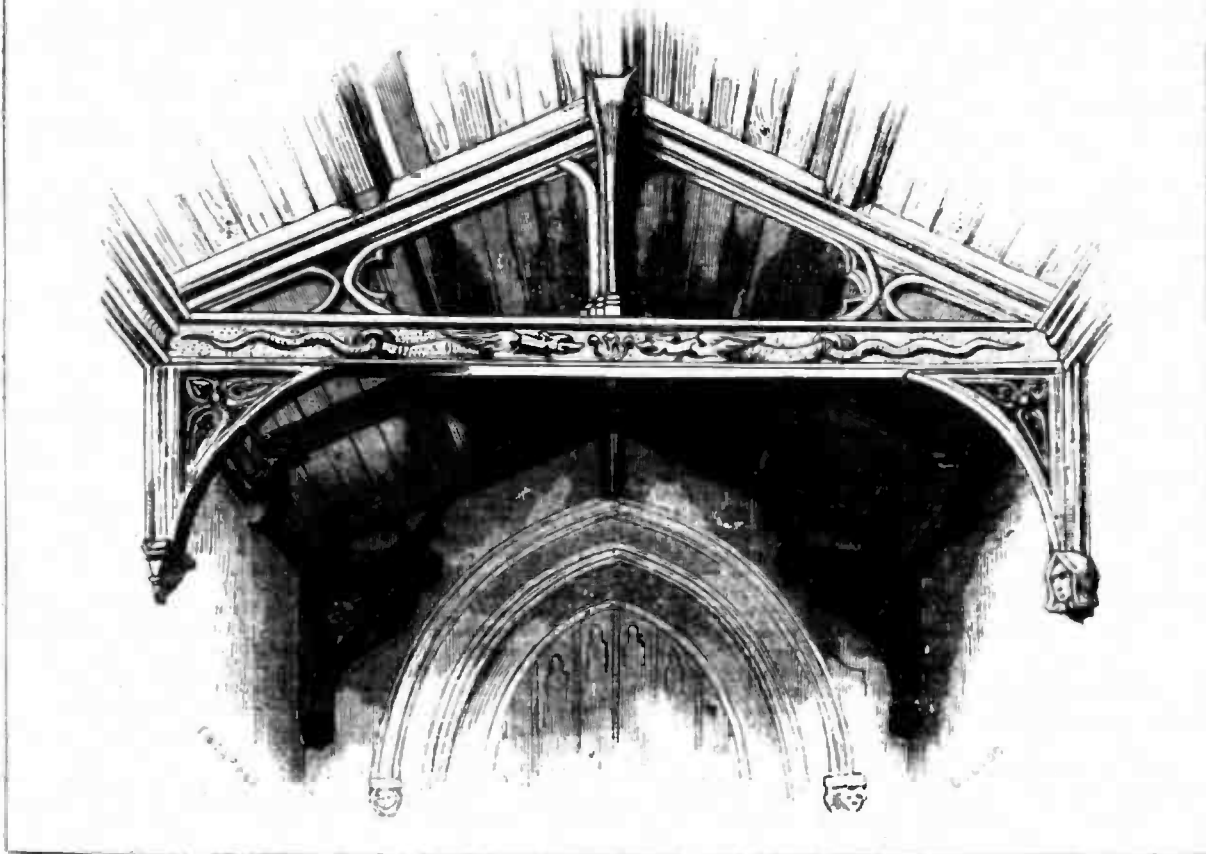


TIMBER ROOF: THAXTED CHURCH, ESSEX.



Penseroso," have been selected by the council of this body for illustration by drawings on wood, to be executed by the first artists and engravers of the day, and presented in a connected form to all subscribers, in lieu of a print.

An original painting by Michael Angelo has been bequeathed to the university of Oxford by Mr. Fairholme, of Chappel, Lauder, with a direction that it be placed in the new university galleries, where are now deposited the drawings by Michael Angelo and Raffaele, formerly collected by Sir Thomas Lawrence. The painting represents the infant Saviour asleep on his mother's lap, and originally consisted of a mere sketch, by Michael Angelo; but it was subsequently filled up by his pupil, Marcello Venusti.

The Liverpool papers mention the following act of liberality:—Mr. Charles Chaloner, of Oak Hill, Old Swan, has recently had Mr. Herbert, R.A., staying at his seat, for the purpose of painting his portrait. When the work was finished, the host, without asking the artist's terms, placed a sealed letter in his hand, requesting his acceptance of its inclosure. On opening the envelope, Mr. Herbert found a check for a thousand pounds. Another Liverpool patron of art last week, it is said, paid a thousand pounds for a picture by Etty.

A committee has been organized in Dublin to arrange an exhibition of the works of old masters, for the relief of the general destitution. The Earl of Arran and other noblemen have offered to aid the scheme by all the means in their power. Donors, or subscribers of 11. and upwards, are to be considered original members, and have the privilege of admission for the whole season for themselves and immediate family, and exclusive admission during the first week, after which the public generally will be admitted on the following terms:—Season ticket for a single person, and not transferable, 2s. 6d.; single admission, 1s.; catalogue, 6d. and 3d. each.

Mr. Howard, R.A., having retired from the office of secretary to the Royal Academy, with

the enjoyment of its emoluments, Mr. J. P. Knight, R.A., has been elected deputy secretary.—The *Art-Union Journal* says, a *Concours* will be opened this month in Paris, for the painters on glass, for the purpose of restoring the windows of the *Sainte Chapelle*, and of some other structures.

We learn from the *Athenaeum* that Mr. Severn is painting in fresco the interior of the splendid hall at Gatton Park, near Reigate, the property of the Countess of Warwick. This hall is, we are informed, an exact imitation of the Consini Chapel at Rome, and is lined with the richest marbles from Italy.

Mr. Barry has been elected a foreign associate by the Brussels Academy of Fine Arts.

TIMBER ROOF: THAXTED CHURCH, ESSEX.

THE church of Thaxted is considered by Morant to be "the most spacious and stately, and, upon all accounts, may be called the best, in this county. The length of it is 183 feet, and the breadth 87 feet, in the inside, exclusive of the thickness of the walls and the projection of the buttresses; its circumference, buttresses and all included, is 345 yards. It is built cathedral-wise, with a cross aisle, and consists of a spacious and lofty body, with north and south aisles. At the west end stands a noble tower and spire, all of freestone, the perpendicular height of which, from the summit of the vane to the ground-floor, is 60 yards 1 foot. In it are six bells."

The roof of the south transept, which we engrave, is believed to have been constructed in the early part of the reign of Henry VIII., as the badges of Catherine of Arragon occur in this part of the church. It is a good example of the timber-work of that period, and is well finished in all its detail. The tie-beam is ornamented with boldly-cut figures of winged dragons, with long knotted tails; the ground of the sunken part of the beam being indented similarly to the dotted back-grounds seen in woodcuts of that period. The king-post has a

moulded base; the angle of the roof above each side of the tie-beam is filled with tracery, as also on the spandrels which support it beneath, and which rest on corbel-heads, some of which are human, and wear the pedimented head-dress introduced in Henry the VII.'s reign, and others of grotesque and fanciful animals. The principal rafters are supported by similar corbel-heads.

THE BUILDINGS ACT IN GREENWICH.

A VERY numerous meeting of the inhabitants of Greenwich and Deptford was held at the Swan Inn, Deptford, on the 28th ultimo, to petition Parliament for the repeal or revision of the Buildings Act. Mr. W. J. Evelyn was in the chair.

Mr. David Wire moved the first resolution:—

"That while this meeting admits that the public safety and health demand that an Act for regulating buildings should exist, yet it is of opinion that the existing Buildings Act does not secure either of these objects in a simple and satisfactory manner."

He pointed out at considerable length some of the annoyances and vexations caused by the Act. "A fine could not be altered to prevent smoke without a demand of 10s. by the district surveyor. A privy could not be built or repaired, nor a chimney-pot or brick removed and replaced without the intervention of the surveyor, at a cost of 10s., nor could he underpin a washhouse, but a demand of 5s. was made. A hog-stye could not be built, pulled down, or altered, without the intermeddling of this agent of the law. The intermeddling and strange interpretation put upon the Act was worse than the payment of fees. The law was unintelligible and badly framed. A neighbour of his had been served with nine informations by the district surveyors on one building. A person could not proceed with any kind of building but he was sure to be entrapped by some clause or other of the Act. He (Mr. W.)