

the Hotel de Ville, the Palais du Ministère, the Madeleine, the Louvre, the Garde Meuble, the Place de la Concorde, the Champs Elysées, the Arc de l'Étoile, and the Jardins des Tuilleries and of the Luxembourg, embellished with marble statues, seats, and fountains, where fine art is rendered familiar even to the vulgar by the profusion of its productions to be met with in every part, we feel that they have a government who know what art is, encourage and patronise it.—they spend a million of francs, where 10,000*l.* are asked here—and they can boast of three noble libraries where we have one. The complacency, then, of the Parisian may be pardoned; but his assumption over the other cities of France may be corrected. Caen and Arras we have seen, and Lyons, Marseilles, Toulon, Bordeaux, and Rouen, and a host of other cities, may boast of their public institutions, fostered by the government, or by the munificence of the municipality, and libraries, museums, schools of design, and other institutions well stored and amply provided, as for an intelligent, a refined, an art-loving people.

T. L. DONALDSON.

PROFESSOR COCKERELL'S LECTURES ON ARCHITECTURE.

THE third lecture was delivered on Thursday, the 26th ult. The professor commenced by an inquiry into the present state and prospects of architecture, and the influence upon the art of certain features of the opinions and state of society in the present day, in which diffusion was the main characteristic. What he termed the march of mind in Europe, was considered in reference to its influence upon architecture, and the comparative decline of the classic influence, and the increase of the northern, or Teutonic, out of which the parties known as "Young England" and "Young Germany" had arisen, was dwelt upon, as tending to make the Gothic style prevalent for some time to come. This feature of the time had caused a remarkable attention to archaeological pursuits, which were not even confined to Gothic architecture, but extended to the styles which formed the subject of the works of Gally Knight, and of Canina. Whilst this tone of thought had one form of expression in the press, in every part of Europe, there was another form in the activity displayed in restoration. The professor referred to Cologne Cathedral as one of the most striking instances, but said that it was in this country that the architecture of the middle ages had had the greatest influence. Since the year 1818, thirteen hundred and eighty-eight churches and chapels had been built and endowed in England, and a vast number in addition had been altered and enlarged. More than this, a similar amount of activity had been shewn out of the pale of the establishment, and the Baptists alone had built 900 chapels. The professor seemed to consider, that though all these examples might not be adduced as meritorious works, their number was a remarkable evidence of the tendency to which he had alluded. He also made some remarks upon the injurious tendencies of competitions, as they are now managed, and illustrated them by saying, that since the days of George the Third, it might be said that no architect had been asked for a design, though all had been invited to send in plans and estimates. In fact, quantity, and not quality, was what had now to be furnished.

In the course of his lecture, the professor entered into a high panegyric of the art of architecture, and the order of mental requirements in those who would practise it. He spoke of the wisdom and re-thought which the works of architecture might evince, so that the beholder felt that the architect was but the mimic of nature, in whose works there was a secret rule, and in which design might be discovered in every thing. It was therefore natural to seek for a principle, for without theory every thing necessarily was confusion. In Greece, the professor had previously said that rules of art were as regularly attended to, and transmitted from one generation to another, as rules of husbandry. He also reminded them that Augustus had commanded Vitruvius to expound the principles of the art, which he derived from Greek authors. Hadrian attached a corps of architects to the cohorts. It might be

inferred that the profession of the architect was in great request during the Roman empire; the aqueducts employed a considerable number, and no doubt the baths had each their own architect regularly attached to the building, as in modern instances.

In inquiring into the influence of rule and system in the middle ages, the professor repeated the evidences he had adduced in a previous course,* from the translation of Vitruvius, and commentary upon that author, by Casarianus. He said that Vitruvius, or the interpretation given to him, had ever been the guide of the Gothic architects, for the diagrams to his work having been lost, the mediæval architects substituted their own interpretation. Attributing great credit to Rickman, as being the first who did any thing to systematise our knowledge of the architecture of the middle ages, orthographically considered, he said that we required the iconography also. The discovery of the whole theory was important, for all the great domes had been raised upon the principles of the middle ages, of which Wren was an able master. By perfecting this discovery, we also superadded a great dignity to the art, and shewed that it was not a matter of caprice, as had been asserted. He then cited old documents of the freemasons, in which the name of Vitruvius was mentioned, and noticed, although at less length than in his former course, the explanations given by Casarianus of the text of Vitruvius, in which it will be recollected that the plans of nearly all mediæval churches were supposed to be governed, as to the positions of the columns and walls, by an arrangement of equal squares. The plan of the cathedral at Ratisbon was then deemed, if we remember rightly, to be an exception from the usual system, but the professor now shewed, from a plan contributed to him by Mr. Penrose, that the same principle was adopted, although a variation was made by having the shafts which support the vaulting, instead of the main piers, upon the intersections. In speaking of the section of these mediæval structures, as governed in general by the equilateral triangle, he instanced Westminster Abbey as an exception, and said that one mode of accounting for its great height, was by supposing it to have been intended for a church of double aisles.† The professor also referred to the forms of the east end of a church, which Casarianus said "the learned generally make square," which was the general form in England, and he exhibited a comparative diagram of the heights of the vaults in several different buildings, shewing the gradual increase from the height of the Pantheon, where the crown was at a distance from the pavement, equal to the span, to that of the nave and dome of St. Peter's, and lastly to that of Cologne Cathedral.—All that was symbolic in these mediæval structures, was formed upon the triangle and the cross; all the rest was designed, and was directed by no caprice. The professor argued that he had proved the value of these ancient documents, and he concluded by quoting for his hearers' amusement, the paragraph with which Casarianus winds up his commentary, and in which he calls upon the reader to thank heaven for the birth of the author.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE first stone of the Cheltenham General Hospital, now erecting in the Sandford fields in that town, was laid on January the 25th, by Lord Dunsally. It is built for the accommodation of between eighty and ninety patients, and contains two large wards on the ground floor, four large and four smaller wards on the upper floor, with operation theatre, board-room, museum, physician's and surgeon's rooms, &c. &c. Mr. D. J. Humphria is the architect.—Mr. Rennie, the engineer, is about to commence a survey at Dover, preparatory to the construction of a pier, to extend 1,000 feet into the sea, for the mails and passengers from Calais and other continental ports.—According to the *Chelmsford Chronicle* there is some probability of the site of the Essex County Lunatic Asylum being

* Vide the reports and "Commentary upon the Lectures" in THE BUILDER, Vol. IV.

† In the "Commentary upon the Lectures," in Vol. IV. of THE BUILDER, the same view has been taken, and the circumstance of there being a double range of windows in the aisle, adduced as an argument in favour of the supposition.

fixed at Brentwood, instead of Chelmsford. A piece of land, consisting of 80 acres, at 100*l.* an acre, is said to be that now in view for this purpose.—We are informed, by a correspondent, that six tenders were furnished for the erection of the new Corn Exchange at Peterborough, and that the tender of Messrs. Ruddle and Thompson was accepted. The building is to be completed in June.—The Birkenhead Dock works, it is now thought, will be re-commenced early in April, as an arrangement with the Government is said to be so far advanced that a bill has been deposited and a petition lodged in customary form. The land granted to the Commissioners on the Seacombe side is to belong to the Crown, and probably to form an arsenal, &c., the Crown undertaking to construct, at its own expense, the walls of the great tidal basin, and those fronting the river; in consideration of which, the Crown is willing to lend the Commissioners 150,000*l.* for the completion of their own outer works.—Mr. W. Rushton, surveyor of buildings at Liverpool, has prepared the following return of the number of houses and warehouses erected, or in course of erection, within the borough, from 1st January to 31st December, 1847:—Houses under 12*l.* per annum, 59; from 12*l.* to 25*l.*, 905; from 25*l.* to 35*l.*, 167; from 35*l.* upwards, 89; total, 1,220. Warehouses, 5. Houses erected since 1837:—1838, 1,052; 1839, 997; 1840, 1,576; 1841, 1761; 1842, 2,027; 1843, 1,390; 1844, 2,150; 1845, 3,725; 1846, 3,360; 1847, 1,220; total, 19,061.—In the erection of the Manchester new Borough Gaol, since its commencement in June last, by the contractor, Mr. David Bellhouse, upwards of 7,000,000 of bricks, according to the *Manchester Courier*, have been laid, besides a large amount of stone work, iron beams, columns, &c. The central hall of inspection, with the four wings radiating from it, are ready for the roof, and the chapel is built to the level of the second story.—Edinburgh is about to borrow a hint from Paris in providing winter amusement. The Caledonian Horticultural Society proposes a glass-enclosed winter garden, at first to be 140 feet in length by 35 in breadth, and afterwards enlarged, so as to admit of the cultivation of the most rare exotics, as well as to form a brumal promenade. The project is likely, it is thought, to meet with every encouragement.—The clay model of the Edinburgh statue of Wellington, by Mr. Steell, is finished, and the bronze castings are to be also done at Edinburgh, the whole to be ready by June, 1849.—The town-council of Perth having applied to Mr. Leslie, civil engineer, as to the preservation of the city from inundation, he has recommended the erection of a mound or embankment across the North Inch, and along the river side to the South Inch. The inhabitants, however, it is thought, will be adverse to any scheme involving what they will probably regard as an injury to their public park or play-grounds.

"RAFFLING FOR WORK."—A correspondent has sent us an account of "a raffle for work to be done at a public-house in Union-street, Lambeth," which we should be glad to think was merely a joke, but cannot, because of the complacency and gravity with which it is told. It describes an architect in the chair, with the landlord on his right, and show how, according to the terms of the agreement, the latter was to "stand" three bottles of port, the winner another three bottles, and every one present just what he pleased, excepting that all were to finish with brandy and water! Every man sent in his proposal and the result was as follows:—

Holland and Son	£325
Starch	275
Spikemas	250
Trives and Son	250
Hardy	250
Cheserman	224
Stevens	217
Pritchard	226
Wilson	220
Warrup	213
and Thomas	187 1/2

who was declared the winner amidst the rejoicing of his friends." The difference, preposterous as it is, was no greater, perhaps, than might have been expected in tenders made under such circumstances.