

true religion is, so far from interfering with a spirit of devotion, these stimulate it by hushing every jarring note and bringing all that is esthetic into harmony with all that is spiritual and holy. We partly realize this, for we use the power of music to awaken the emotional element in men, and to stir them to kindly thoughts and high aspirations. But we often stop at this, forgetting that there is a like power in architecture, felt, like that of music, more or less, according to the degree in which each is capable of being influenced by it.

There may be some doubt as to which style of building is most beautiful and at the same time best suited for our use, but surely there can be no doubt that a style, like the Gothic or Norman, which has developed with the life of the Church and has become associated with all that is most sacred to men, is more suited for worship than a structure almost identical with the modern concert hall.

We do not mean to imply that Christianity is not in its very nature existent in the present. We wish, though, to distinguish the spirit of Christianity from the outward forms which clothe it, namely, the church building and the services held therein. Surely no one will deny that these have become consecrated from their connection with the past and have won from men admiration and reverence for the spirit, which, breathing in them, gave them a prominent place in history.

Let us check the habit of weighing all things in the balances of a hard, objective utility, lest we forget that the "House of God" should also be the House Beautiful. Utility would be dearly purchased if it banished from among us those earlier churches in which, while the heart goes out in love to Him who is our hope for the world to be, mind and eye according with it, hails Him also as the Author of art and beauty in the world which is.