

ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY

In the course of an interesting address at the Carpenters' Hall, London, recently, Mr. Bryce M.P., the eminent historian, observed that architecture was one of the very oldest and also one of the most necessary of the arts. It had got a scientific as well as a practical side. More than any other art, perhaps, it had the great interest of combining the two elements of utility and beauty in everything that it did, and in every step in its advance. Architecture, as embodied in the work it produced, became a part of the life of every nation—a part of its practical life and a part of its aesthetic and intellectual life. He dwelt at some length on the various causes which influenced architecture apart from those of materials and climate. One might say that buildings expressed the aims and needs, the resources, and the tastes of each successive age and each successive people. No evidence was so good as that of a building—a building told its own story. The subject of the relation of history to architecture had two aspects. They might look on it from the side of the light that history threw on buildings, and from the way in which buildings illustrated history. One of the great values of the study of architecture was that it went back to the ages from which we had little or nothing in the way of records. The art of building considerably antedated written records. Any one who went to India and saw the diversity of buildings there would be unable to find an explanation of that diversity without the lamp of history to light his path. In the middle ages in Europe the great feature was ecclesiastical power, which dominated everything else. Religion then occupied a larger part in men's minds than it did to-day. Therefore the great buildings which had come down to us from the Middle Ages were mostly ecclesiastical buildings, and we saw recorded in them the immense interest and passion which people then threw into their religion. A curious instance belonged to our own time. The nineteenth century had been the great age since the end of the fifteenth century of church building and restoration. That was due to two concurrent influences; one, the development of wealth and population, which made more churches necessary, and the other was the romantic movement, which they saw in Ruskin and Walter Scott, and which gave the people a revived interest in architecture and art, and made them willing to spend their money, not only in building churches, but in making them beautiful. When the New Zealander came ten centuries hence to reconstruct the history of England from its ruins, he would be struck by the number of churches belonging to the nineteenth century. Architecture was one of those branches of art which suggested to us the immense influence and power of emotion, as well as intellect, in the development of mankind. It was emotion, religious emotion, which had produced most of the great art and architecture of the world.—Casket.

HUGE STATUE OF BUDDHA

To the eastern traveller the statue of Buddha is a familiar sight. From Colombo in Ceylon, to Kobe, in Japan, he is everywhere greeted by the same calm impassive and mysterious face of the eastern preceptor of perfection. But in no city in the orient do the form and face of Buddha constitute so frequent or so essential a part of the city's decoration as in Rangoon, Burma, starting place of Mr. Kipling's famous "Road

to Mandalay," the stronghold of Buddhists. Notable even among the countless statues of Rangoon is the mammoth Buddha, representing the strange teacher, not standing or sitting crosslegged as in the majority of statues, but reclining on a huge raised couch, his mighty form stretched out for 200 feet, while his shoulders rival the width of that wonder of the ancient world, the Colossus of Rhodes, their titanic breadth reaching 50 feet. But one among the wonders of Rangoon, this mighty figure rests near the famous Shoay Dagon, the centre of the Burmese Buddhist world, crowned by the golden pagoda, which rises 300 feet above its walls covered with pure gold, the gift of a prince who contributed his weight in gold to the pagoda. In the Shoay Dagon there are countless other statues of Buddha, as well as relics of Gautama, the last Buddha. All, equally with the huge, reclining Buddha, form a part of the religious rites of the Buddhists, the essence of Buddhism consists in the struggle to become like Buddha, to attain his perfection by obedience to his precepts. To do this it is necessary always to have Buddha in mind, and it is for this reason that every city in the Buddhist world is literally crowded with his images. Buddha himself is not deified. Potentially every Buddhist may attain his perfection, but only by the eternal imitation of his practice. But while statues such as Rangoon's huge colossus are important in Buddhist worship, of even more importance are the relics of Buddha. It was about the Shoay Dagon that the Burmese made their last fierce fight when the British came to Rangoon. A Venetian traveller of 300 years ago visiting the Shoay Dagon has left a description of this famous temple, conceding its claim to rivalry with his own Venice, that would serve as a contemporaneous description, and to-day, as in untold centuries past, the Burmese still bring their offerings of flowers and fruit, candles and paper flags to lay before the huge reclining Buddha, whose hands would afford comfortable standing room for four of the worshippers and whose gigantic face wears the strange, inscrutable expression of calm which is the outward mark of spiritual Buddhism.

—Home Journal and News.

SOME GIANT FISHES

Of the numerous kinds of sharks noteworthy on account of their size are four in the front rank. These are the sleeper shark, the man eater shark, the basking shark and the whale shark. The sleeper shark, whose scientific name (Somniosus microcephalus, meaning sleepy, small-headed fish) fits it so admirably, appears to have developed its body at the expense of its brain, for it is a sluggish, stupid glutton, about six times as long as the average man. Its home is in the arctic regions, but it sometimes makes visits as far south as Massachusetts, Oregon, and the British Isles. It is usually seen lying quietly at the surface, apparently dozing, and is easily approached by vessels, but sometimes when hungry it rouses itself and goes in search of its prey, fiercely attacking and injuring whales, apparently unconscious of the great difference in their respective sizes. One of the largest and perhaps the most formidable of sharks is the "man-eater," or great blue shark (Carcharodon carcharias). It roams through all temperate and tropical seas and is everywhere dreaded. Its maximum length is 40 feet, and its teeth are three inches long. While there are few authentic records of sharks attacking human beings, there have undoubtedly been many cases of sharks simply swallowing people who have fallen overboard, just as they would swallow any other food. How easy it would be for a man eater to devour a person may be judged from the finding of a whole hundred pound sea lion in the stomach of a thirty foot shark on the California coast. A certain man eater 36½ feet long had jaws 20 inches wide inside, and teeth two and a half inches long. The basking shark known also as the elephant shark and bone shark (Cetorhinus maximus), is an inhabitant of the polar seas, but is occasionally observed as far south as Virginia and California and some years ago was not rare on the English and New England coasts. It reaches a maximum length of fifty feet and is exceeded in size by only three or four animals now alive. Provided with small teeth, it feeds on fishes and floating crustaceans and is not of a ferocious disposition. It is dangerous only because of its great bulk, and when attacked its powerful tail easily demolishes small boats. The basking shark was formerly hunted on the coasts of Norway and Iceland for its oil. It was also caught on the shores of Massachusetts

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in the early part of the last century, and many of these sharks from 25 to 30 feet long were recorded. The liver of a large specimen sometimes yielded 12 barrels of oil. The largest of all fishes the largest of all cold blooded animals and the largest of all existing animals, except a few kinds of whales, is the whale shark (Rhineodon typicus) originally discovered at the Cape of Good Hope, but now known in Japan, India, South America, Panama, California and elsewhere, a specimen having recently been obtained in Florida. This shark is said to attain a length of seventy feet and is known to exceed fifty feet.—Home Journal and News.

Five Years Dyspepsia Cured.

"No one knows what I suffered from stomach trouble and dyspepsia" writes Mr. A. B. Agnew of Bridgewater. "For the last five years I have been unable to digest and assimilate food. I had no color, my strength ran down and I felt miserable and nervous all the time. I always had a heavy feeling after meals and was much troubled with dizziness and specks before my eyes. Dr. Hamilton's Pills were just what I needed. They have cured every symptom of my old trouble. My health is now all that can be desired." By all means use Dr. Hamilton's Pills; 25c. per box at all dealers.

NO DIVORCE IN IRELAND

It is not often that Parliament in Great Britain is called upon nowadays to dissolve a marriage, and the Beaumont-Wallis case, which has recently been engaging the attention of the House of Lords at Westminster, has served to recall the fact that Ireland is one of the very few countries in Europe the courts of which do not grant divorces—a relic of the times when all Ireland was Catholic, says Marquis de Fontenoy, in the New York Tribune. The Irish tribunals, like those of Italy will grant a judicial separation, but no more, and if an Irishman—that is to say, a citizen who has his legal domicile in Ireland wishes to get a divorce, the only manner by which he can do so is the terribly costly and lengthy process of having a bill passed through Parliament dissolving the union.

Dog Waited Three Weeks For Master

For weeks Shep, a blooded Scotch collie dog, waited at a lonely station in Augusta county, Va., for the return of his absent master. The master, C. F. Dorlan, of West eighth avenue, Denver, when he heard that his devoted pet was homeless, took a railroad trip to Virginia to get possession of the dog and bring him to Colorado. The two have never been separated since.

Dorlan was at the Union depot last night, waiting for a train to take him to South Platte, Neb., where he is to do some contract work for the Union Pacific Railroad. With him was the dog Shep.

Mr. Dorlan patted the dog as he told the following story: "I left Augusta county, Va., where I had a farm, several months ago. I gave Shep to a neighbor, believing that he would be better off than with me. Shortly after I left he broke his chain and returned to my farm, and followed my footsteps to the railroad station. There he waited for me for three weeks taking but little nourishment.

"The station agent, knowing the dog and knowing me, wrote to me, describing the dog's actions, about the end of the second week. I immediately left Denver for Virginia, and did not rest

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easy until I arrived at the station, where the dog awaited me.

"There never was a dog more glad He jumped and frolicked, despite the fact that he was lean for the want of nourishment. Seizing my trouser legs, he dragged me in the direction of the old farm. He would run a short distance toward the farm and then return to me. He could not understand why I would not go home. He is contented here, I believe, and his devotion has made such an impression on me that I have never been away from him since.

"The evening wore on," continued the man who was telling the story.

"Excuse me," interrupted the would-be wit, "but can you tell us what the evening wore on that occasion."

"I don't know that it is important," replied the story-teller, "but, if you must know, I believe it was the close of a Summer day."

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