

A P P E N D I X .

VII. HINTS UPON THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND BOOK CASES.

The following article was prepared by an intelligent German gentleman, who has paid much attention to the subject of Libraries. We commend the valuable suggestions he has made, and the interesting facts he has stated.

Architects intrusted with the structure of public buildings, generally think it of greater importance to give the exterior a splendid appearance, than to combine convenience and comfort in the interior. A church, however beautiful its front, however harmonious the proportions of the interior may be, is constructed improperly if the congregation or the larger portion of it, cannot catch the words of the preacher. A cathedral or church, even should it be built in the purest and noblest style, answers very badly the purpose for which it is intended if those present are not enabled to see and hear well in all parts of the house. Unfortunately, architects endeavor too frequently to make their names celebrated by commanding façades, put up according to the rules of architecture, while they care very little about the purpose for which the edifice is designed. On the other hand, a librarian knows generally very little about regular architectural beauty, even though he may pride himself upon the