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ART TEACHING

FROM A RELIGIOUS POINT OF VIEW.*

*By the REV. T. W. FYLES, (C.M., Dep. of Science and Art,) Rector
of Nelsonville and Principal of the Missisquoi High School.*

(Continued from p. 189.)

THE ROMANESQUE.

Out of this grew the *Lombard* and the *Norman*. The noblest structure remaining of the *Byzantine* or *Romanesque* period has unhappily ceased to be a Christian place of worship. It is the Mosque of St. Sophia at Constantinople. This stately building was completed by the Emperor Justinian in the 6th Century.

Byzantine Art is thoroughly symbolical. It laid hold of Roman ornament, and made it redolent of Christianity. The unmeaning wave-scroll and acanthus-leaves were changed into emblems of Glory, Eternity, Purity and Triumph. Aureoles, Circles, Lilies, and Writhing Serpents (*Runic-knots*) grew out of the foliations of Roman Art, and made them entirely suggestive. I have alluded to the cross, with its nimbi: this form was that adopted in early Byzantine architecture—a cruciform structure, with a central dome, and smaller domes at the extremities. Such is St. Mark's at Venice.

I will now ask you to carry your thoughts to the island of Great

* A paper read before the Teachers' Convention at St. John's, P.Q., October 26th, 1881.