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The Civilization of the 13th Century.

(Continued.)

ARCHITECTURE is the most comprehensive of the arts, requiring the co-operation of sculpture, painting, and the decorative arts generally. Since, therefore, it includes the work of such a variety of artists and craftsmen, it may safely be taken as an index of the condition of the people. Now the Thirteenth Century is the great age of architecture. The pointed style of architecture, which is commonly, but improperly, known as Gothic, had its rise and highest development in that century. When we consider, even in picture, the grandeur of outline and exquisite grace of design of those glorious temples of Amiens, Chartres, Salisbury and Westminster, what must we think of the devotion and genius of those who planned and built them, and of the teaching that could inspire such devotion and genius? These temples, which, as Newman says, "possess a beauty which we shall never see surpassed till we attain to the celestial city," represent the triumphant spirit of Catholicism. They are the incontestable witnesses of the brilliancy of the Thirteenth Century civilization. We could not build these fanes to-day, for, as Fr. Sheehan says, "we toil in the workshops of Mammon; and neither *james*, nor fame, can give the inspiration of that mother of art called faith."

James Russell Lowell, in his poem, the "Cathedral," in describ-