

more advantage in the middle of the square, it is only required to do what, sooner or later, must be done in every parish where a church is to be built or enlarged, viz., remove a few bodies with decent reverence to the cemetery, or to another part of the present church-yard. Second, in regard to the land to be leased; if it be devoted, or, what is the same thing, its proceeds be devoted to rebuilding the church, which is a better and holier purpose than that of becoming a depository for the dead, it is altogether a mistake that the ground is thereby desecrated and an act of sacrilege committed. Look at the city of London: all the churches had at first burial-grounds around them; but the city grew, and necessity compelled relaxations, from time to time, or enactments for the benefit of the living, till, in many instances, nothing is left but the bare church, witness, for instance, St. Clement Danes in the Strand, and St. Martin's in the Fields. Yet no charge of desecration has ever been made, because during the process every thing was done with reverence and decency, and to constitute sacrilege there must be neglect, irreverence or intentional indignity. The cathedral of St. Paul covers the whole of the ancient burying-ground and nobody complains, for, though it be a natural feeling to respect the dead, the rights of the living must neither be neglected nor sacrificed.

14. The subject, therefore, of re-building the church, as contemplated by the vestry of St. James's Church, in whatever light it be correctly viewed, involves no case of desecration or of sacrilege. If built upon the middle of the square the bodies can be piously removed, as daily happens in other places. All desire the ground to be preserved, if there be a possibility of building the church otherwise. But if it be found impossible, from inability or disinclination, the ground may be leased without any apprehension of desecration, for, to speak of desecration when the land is thus devoted to the glory of God, is totally to misunderstand the meaning of the word.

15. Once more: some persons think that there is no occasion to be at any great expence in erecting a church.-- For they argue, that God may be as sincerely worshipped in a building of clay or of timber, as in the most gorgeous