

churches more than a thousand years. During that long period these churches have, no doubt, been several times renewed and enlarged, as they fell into decay, and the population increased; but did any one ever dream that because the parish church was to be renewed or enlarged, or its site changed to another more eligible part of the church-yard, where it might cover many graves, and require the removal of many bodies, that this was desecrating such bodies? Certainly not: the church is the first thing to be considered.— Besides, most men desire the church to cover their graves, and when this cannot be done, to remove them with pious reverence to another part of the burial-ground is perfectly consistent with the most solemn consecration. Were it otherwise, no new church could ever be built or enlarged; for parishes have, in general, no other site than the churchyard. To the re-building or enlarging of a parish church, therefore, as the most important and necessary parochial object, and other thing connected with the churchyard must yield. This the site or church plot was originally given. The burying of the dead is a secondary object, and must not be allowed to hinder or stand in the way of providing, in a becoming manner, for public worship—nor, I believe, has it ever been made a question in any parish. It would, indeed, be an indignity to the dead, as well as the living, to permit graves to obstruct the building or enlargement of churches. Such a thought can never be entertained, even for a moment, by a sincere and well-informed Christian. Hence:

11. When the law prohibits the inhabitants of a parish from burying any longer in their churchyard, it is found that the parishioners hasten to remove the bodies of their friends to a fitter place; and if there be any that are unable to do so, they should be assisted by the parochial authorities, for it is found by experience that when a churchyard ceases to be a place of interment, it is less carefully attended to,—the graves are trampled upon, and become flat,—the headstones are defaced, and the tombs fall into ruin. Now, it will not be contended that those who have with reverent care removed their beloved ones from a churchyard where burying is no longer allowed, to another cemetery more safe and convenient, have less affection for their dead than some of their neighbours, who leave their dead exposed, as they may be, to