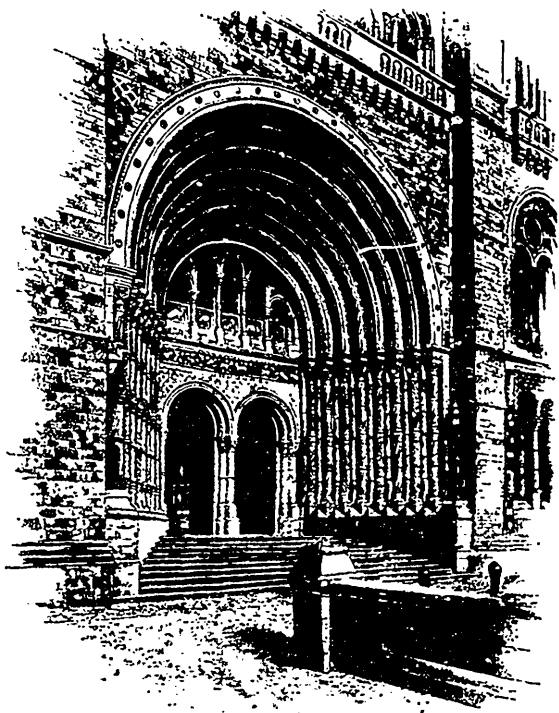


the mullions in the west window tell you that they were not there in those days, but that the Wars of the Roses were nearly over when the west end was built; and you know that they must have been quite over when Henry VII. added his chapel to the east end and covered it with the roof of wondrous fair tracery. Yet people have been wondering at that

the stages of that evolution, back through the Decorated, Early English, Norman, Romanesque advances, until you dream yourself under a barrel-vault in ancient Rome, if not down in the very Cloaca Maxima, the possible parent of it all. When you are thoroughly impressed with the architecture of that chapel, go across the street and see it reborn in our own century. Look at it living again in Barry's Parliament Buildings.

What you will now think of St. Paul's depends much upon your reading. If there has been much Ruskin in it, you will probably be too prejudiced against everything Renaissance to give Wren his due. But even then you must give him credit for great ability. People may call that cathedral Roman architecture as much as they choose; no ancient Roman could have built anything equal to it. Sir Christopher had the benefit of all the Gothic discoveries in construction, and he used them, even if he afterwards covered it all up with classical decoration. That ornament itself will interest you more than when you could not tell a Roman arch from



ROMANESQUE DOORWAY, SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

roof for the last four hundred years! You wondered at it when you were here before, and now you will find a starting point for much thought,—the Gothic vault, as it is, in full bloom. Like many a flower, it was far more beautiful in the bud, two hundred years before, when the nave was built; but here is the Gothic vault in its utmost development; and your mind will wander back through all

a Norman one; when you did not know how to classify the columns in their proper orders. You will feel that this Cathedral of the Stuarts has much to make up for its lack of antiquity. There never was a nobler dome constructed.

No doubt you will find yourself changed by your study when you cross again to the continent. In France you will find more to hold you in Amiens, Rouen, or Cluny