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In all the towers called Anglo-Saxon, and which appear to belong to the eleventh century for the most part, the masonry is of the same rude character-rather the work of common laborers or of carpenters than of skilled and practised masons. It requires a generation to train a body of skilled workmen. And if in the nineteenth century it is found difficult to train a school of workmen to work in a different manner from what they have been accustomed, how much more difficult must it have been in the eleventh, and how improbable it is that the men who built in the rough manner which we find they did build were the successors of other masons. They were evidently men just learning the art of building in stone. It is clear to those who judge of the age of buildings by the buildings themselves, and not by books only, that the Roman art of building, which was chiefly of brick, gradually decayed and died out in England and other countries; that there was then an interval during which nearly all buildings were of wood or of rough stone without mortar. Then a revival took place, and

the earliest buildings erected after this revival were built of the fragments of Roman buildings then in ruins. When this supply was exhausted the Roman buildings were copied as well as unskilled hands could copy them; and in this revived art of building a gradual improvement took place in each succeeding generation until the most perfect masonry and construction that the world has ever seen was produced in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

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