

their pagan mythology. These are often monstrous in form and abhorrent to every sense of beauty and propriety. Several examples of these buildings are given in the engravings which accompany these articles. The Pagoda at Tanjore is a prevailing type.

Of the beauty of design and skill of workmanship of the Saracenic architecture no praise can be too great. The most beautiful monument in the world is that built by the great Mogul, Shah Jehan, over his beautiful and beloved empress, Moomtaj. The garden in which the monument stands is on the bank of the river Jumna, about six miles from the city of Agra, in India. The mausoleum, the terrace upon which it stands, and the minarets, are all formed of the finest white marble, inlaid with precious stones. The dome is seventy feet in diameter, and shines like the purest silver. The Taj is two hundred and forty-five feet high, and the golden spire on the top is thirty feet more. Directly under the dome is the tomb of the beautiful empress, and that of the emperor is by its side. In the rotunda above are tombs decorated for display. A screen six feet high, with doors on the sides, surrounds them. The screen is of fine, pure marble, with open tracery wrought into beautiful flowers, and the borders of the screen inlaid with precious stones representing flowers, so skilfully done that the very shading of the stems, leaves, and flowers seems almost as real as that done by Nature's hand!

Nothing can be imagined more delicately beautiful than the work on the tomb of the empress. The snow-white marble is inlaid with flowers so exquisitely formed from the marble that they are said to look like the most beautiful embroidery on satin. In one flower, no larger than a silver dollar, there are twenty-three different precious stones, and some traveller asserts that he found no less than three hundred stones in a single blossom upon the tomb!

The dome which rises above all this beauty contains the most pure and prolonged echo to be found in the world. It has been truly said that "Love was the author, Beauty the inspiration," of this most wonderful of buildings.

Bishop Hurst thus describes a recent visit to the Taj Mahal by moonlight:—

"The moon was at the full. The perfumes of the garden filled the air,