THE TEMPLE CHURCH AN ACCOUNT OF ITS RESTORATION AND REPAIRS

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The Temple Church an Account of Its Restoration and Repairs by William Burge

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" Let us reverence the spirit of self ascribes of the Dark Ages, as we contumelously term them, and see with what a noble ardear the men of these days devoted all,-manay, time, thought, hope, life itself-to raise for God and man, shrines as worthy of God as human hands could raise, and fit and able to lift main's thought and bope beyond earth, and lead it on haves ward."--The Duty of Maintaining the Truth. A Sermon preached before the University of Combridge, May 18, 1834, by J. H. Rose, B. D.

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The Temple Church

AN ACCOUNT OF ITS RESTORATION

AND REPAIRS

BY

WILLIAM BURGE, ESQ.

OF THE INNER TEMPLE, DNE OF HER MAJESTY'S COUNSEL. M.A. P.B.S. F.S.A.

" Taste and art, rejecting heathen mould, Shall draw their types from Rurope's middle night," Well pleased if such good darkness bo their light." Faber.



LONDON WILLIAM PICKERING MECCCALIII

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PREFACE.

THE following pages are written without the authority either of the Masters of the Benches of the Societies of the Temple, or of the Committee appointed by them to superintend the restoration of their Church. Neither those bodies, nor any individual member but the writer can be considered responsible for those sentiments of which they may not approve.

When the restoration of the Temple Church was nearly completed, it was mentioned to the writer, that one whose sincere and devoted attachment to the Church must secure the greatest deference to his suggestions on such a subject, had expressed his apprehension that the expense which had been incurred might deter others from undertaking a similar work. This account has been written from an anxious desire to avert that evil, by correcting misapprehension, and by making it known that the restoration of the Temple Church consisted of very extensive re-

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pairs, absolutely required for sustaining the edifice; repairs however, effected in the manner and style and character of the Temple Church of 1185, and 1240, and with materials of the same kind, worked with the same ornaments, as those with which it was then constructed.

If the completion of this work fail to encourage those entrusted with the care of our Cathedrals and Churches to engage in similar acts of restoration, at least, it may promote a constant and watchful preservation of all which still remains of the sublime beauty of these venerated sanctuaries of the Lord.

The writer may be disappointed in the wish he cherishes, that these pages may in some degree contribute to so desirable an object. But at all events he has afforded himself the gratification of thus expressing his grateful respect for the noble and munificent spirit with which the Masters of the Benches of the Societies of the Temple commenced, prosecuted, and completed this great work, and for the liberality and candour with which they gave and continued their confidence to the Committee whom they appointed to superintend its execution. He has the further gratification of thus acknowledging, with sentiments of the sincerest friendship and esteem for

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his associates in that Committee, the harmony and good understanding which uninterruptedly pervaded amongst them, and without which, their earnest and anxious endeavours to execute their trust to the satisfaction of those by whom it had been delegated must have been altogether fruitless.

WILLIAM BURGE.

 Paper Buildings, Temple, 14 January, 1843.

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