

course of time, the idea embodied in the frame expanded into a moderate-sized hot-house, then into a green-house of considerably larger size, then into a tall palm-house ; and, last of all, an ingenious gardener, bred among groves of exotics protected by huge erections of glass and iron, and familiar with the necessity of adding to the size of a case as the objects which it had to contain multiplied or were enlarged, bethought him of expanding the idea yet farther into the Crystal Palace of the Exhibition. And such seems to be the history and lineage of perhaps the largest of all buildings : it is simply an expansion of the first glass-frame that covered the first few delicate flowers transplanted from a warmer to a colder climate ; and, notwithstanding its imposing proportions, is as much a mere *case* as it was. And were its size to be doubled,—if, instead of containing two hundred miles of sash-bars and nine hundred thousand superficial feet of glass, it were stretched out so as to contain four hundred miles of bars and eighteen hundred thousand feet of glass,—it would be of course a larger building than it is, but not a greater. Nay, I should perhaps rather remark, that it would be impossible by addition to render it not only *more*, but even *less* great than it is,—in itself a mark of inferiority. To a truly great building it would be impossible to add ; for unity, as a whole, forms the very soul of all great edifices. He would be a bold man who would attempt making a single addition to St Paul's ;—one tower more would ruin it : whereas the length or breadth of a railway terminus may be increased *ad infinitum*, without in the least affecting its unity or proportions ; for the railway terminus is also a mere case, and its unity and proportions bear reference to but the rule of convenience, which directs that it should be made quite large enough to hold what it had been erected to shelter. It is ill, I may add, with an architecture of what at least ought to be the higher kind, when it is found to come under this