

contemporary : the workmen who produced the fabrics or jewellery of China and of Tunis are as certainly living men, still engaged in the production of more, as the workmen of France or of England ; and yet *their* works bear the stamp of antiquity ; while those of the civilized nations, save where, in a few cases, a false taste has led to a retrograde movement, bear the true modern air. They are things, not of the past, but of the present. Not a few of the ideas which they embody are absolutely old : their sculpture is formed on the old model of Greece ; their architectural ideas are either Grecian or Gothic : and yet, though associations and recollections of the ancient do mix themselves up with the later style, we feel that, unlike the semi-barbarous productions of the less civilized nations, they are not *old-fashioned*, but new. In one sense, *new* and *true*, *old* and *false*, are evidently convertible terms. A false idea in art always becomes old ; while a true idea lives on, and bears about it the freshness of youth. The false idea is consigned to the keeping of but the antiquary ; whereas civilized man, as such, becomes the depository of the true one ; and in his countless re-productions it continues to bear about it the fresh gloss of youth. And at length, with even the recent, if false, we come to associate ideas of the obsolete and the old. I was much struck, in the mediæval department of the Exhibition,—a department which we owe to Puseyism,—by the large amount of the false in art which this superstition has been the means of calling back from its grave. The Gothic architecture is true,—one, as we have already said, of the two great architectural ideas of the world. But the Gothic sculpture and the Gothic painting are both false ; and Puseyism has, with the nonsense and false doctrine of the middle ages, been restoring both the false painting and the false sculpture. The grotesque figures gaudily stained into glass, or grimly fretted into stone, harmonized well with tall candles of bees' wax and cotton wick,—to