

THE STYLE OF ORNAMENT WHICH PREVAILED FROM THE FOURTH  
TO THE TWELFTH CENTURY.

By means of sketches, the Lecturer illustrated the successive modifications and

improvements made, in the earlier ages, both in the erection of edifices for Christian worship, and on the original combinations and details of Roman architecture in the progressive adaptation of the Pagan basilica to the rites of the church; and stated that architecture might, in almost every case, be taken as the type of the decorative art of the time—the missals, the drinking-cups and other domestic vessels, the furniture, and even the jewellery of each age, almost invariably exhibiting the same style of ornament. Mr Christie also illustrated the progress of ornamentation by numerous drawings and other illustrations, including casts from St Mark's, Venice, coloured and gilded in the style of the original; from all which, he shewed how the style assumed its definite character and combinations, and was then followed by a gradual improvement in design and colouring. The close of the period chosen for illustration was especially remarkable for the number, beauty, and elaborate character of the mosaics adorning the interior of the structures. A great variety of drawings of these mosaics, and other mediæval ornaments, were produced in illustration.

---

*April 12, 1852.*

Rev. WILLIAM STEVENSON, D.D., Vice-President, in the  
Chair.

The Donations included the Roman Centurial Tablet exhibited at the previous *Conversazione*, and now presented to the Society by the Right Hon. The EARL of ZETLAND. It was found at Castlecary, on the Antonine Wall, in 1841, during the construction of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, when the old Roman station was cut through, and a mass of debris, including much Roman pottery, was laid open to a depth of twelve feet. The inscription is :

CHO VI  
O ANTO  
ARATI

The noble donor also presented, along with the Centurial Inscript-

tion, two Stone Quernes, and various fragments of Amphoræ and other Roman pottery, from the same site.

Several fine specimens of Flint Arrow-Heads, from an Indian mound on the Mississippi river, and other localities in the United States, were presented by E. W. DALLAS, Esq.