*In August 1836 AWN Pugin published Contrasts: or, A Parallel Between the Noble Edifices of the Middle Ages, and Corresponding Buildings of the Present Day; Shewing the Present Decay of Taste. Pugin's book presents architecture as profound work of religious magnitude. Its comparative analysis glorifies gothic architecture and denigrates the architectural production of Pugin's contemporaries.*

*Pugin illustrated his argument with a series of etchings. His medieval buildings are rendered with rich detail, their inhabitants typically shown in orderly procession or quiet reverence. The contemporary equivalents are shallow and impoverished, populated by scattered figures, exemplifying Pugin's assertion that architecture acts directly on the minds of its occupants as a tangible embodiment of the values of its time.*

*The self-published first edition of Contrasts pairs these images, rotated perpendicular to its binding, on recto pages with blank versos (the unprinted reverse of each preceding plate). Subsequent editions have stayed faithful to this awkward pagination. The format produces a curious disparity between the binary oppositions in Pugin's argument and the readymade binary apparatus of the open book: split down the middle by its binding the codex should be the ideal stage for Contrasts.*

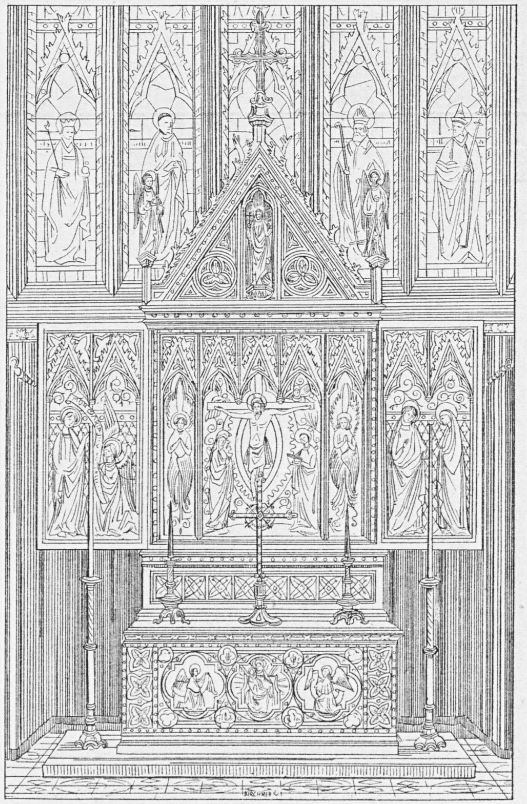
*This present publication makes a corrective gesture. Photocopies of 15 of the 16 pairings from the 1841 second edition of Contrasts are rotated 90 degrees and reproduced on facing pages. These pages are framed by Pugin's binary vocabulary: two lists of words used in descriptions of the two eras of architectural production discussed in Contrasts. This work is part of a broader enquiry by the author into the book as an active site of display.*

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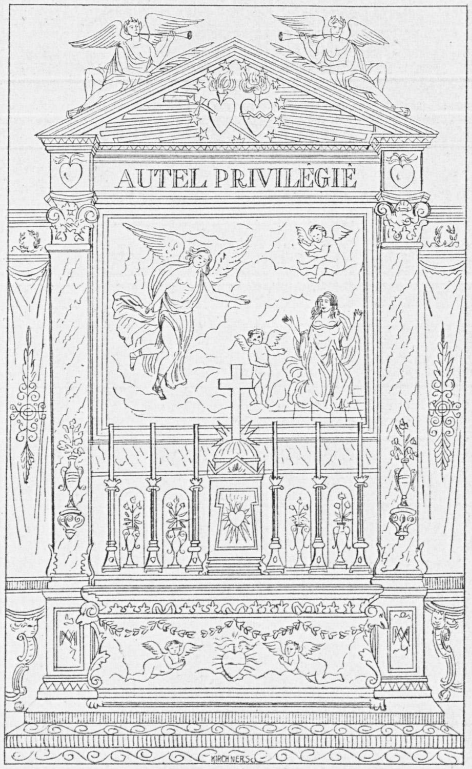
# Pugin's Contrasts Rotated by James Langdon

BP

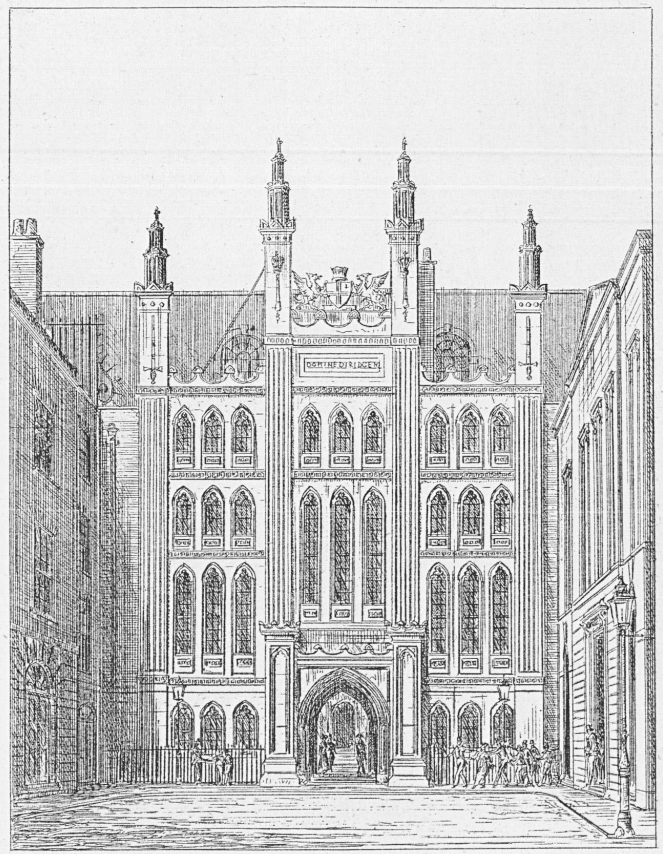
No. I.



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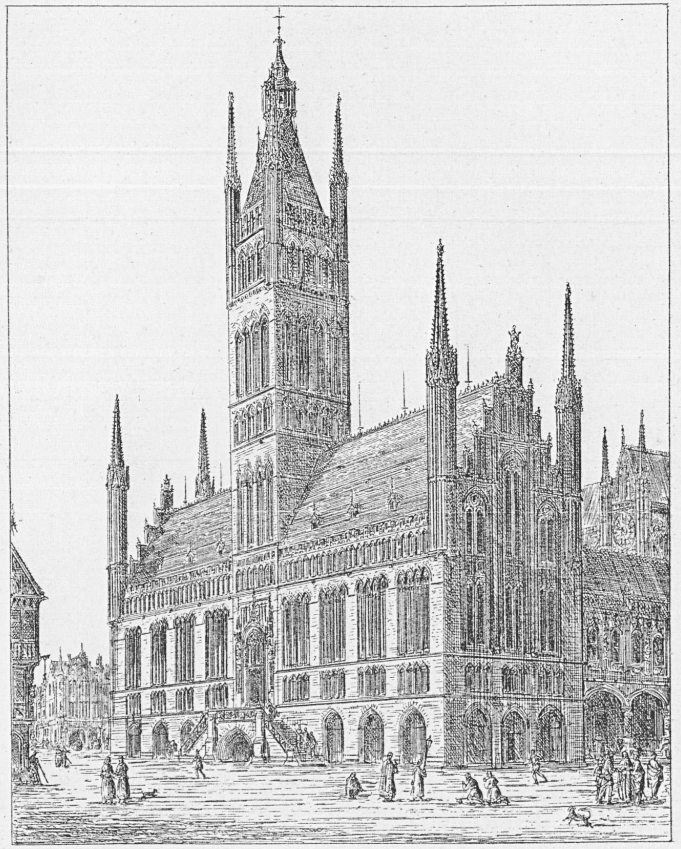



Contrasted Altars.

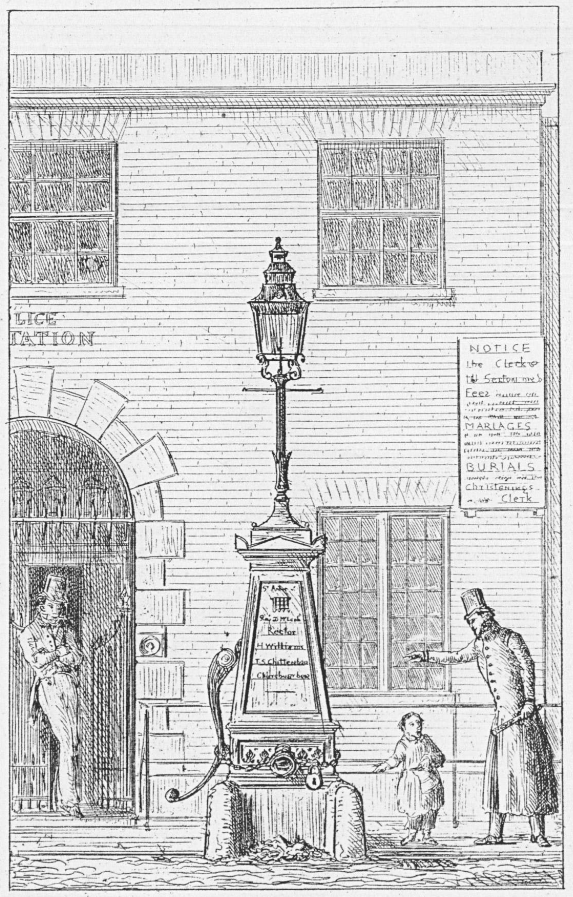


GVILDHALL LONDON
George Dance Esqr archt

# CONTRASTED TOWN HALLS



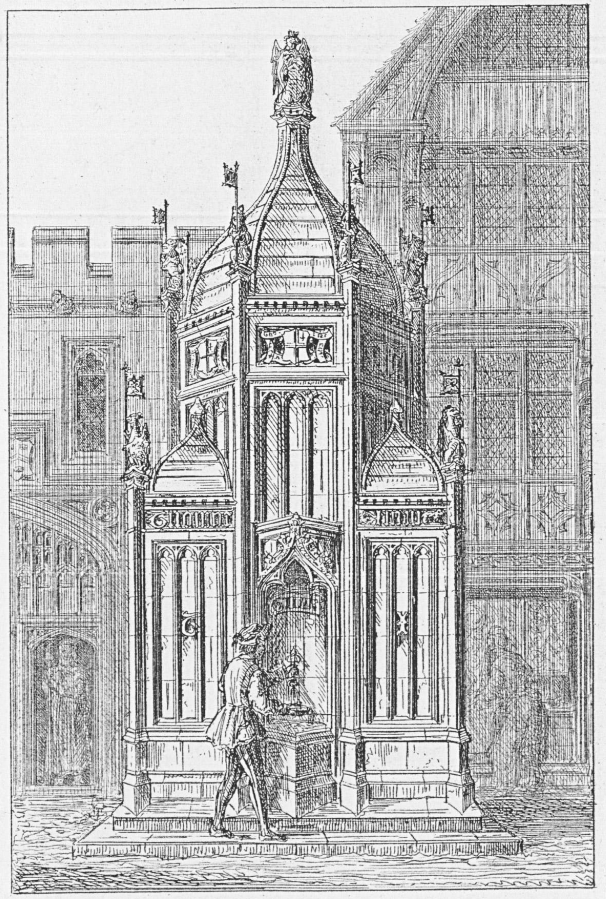
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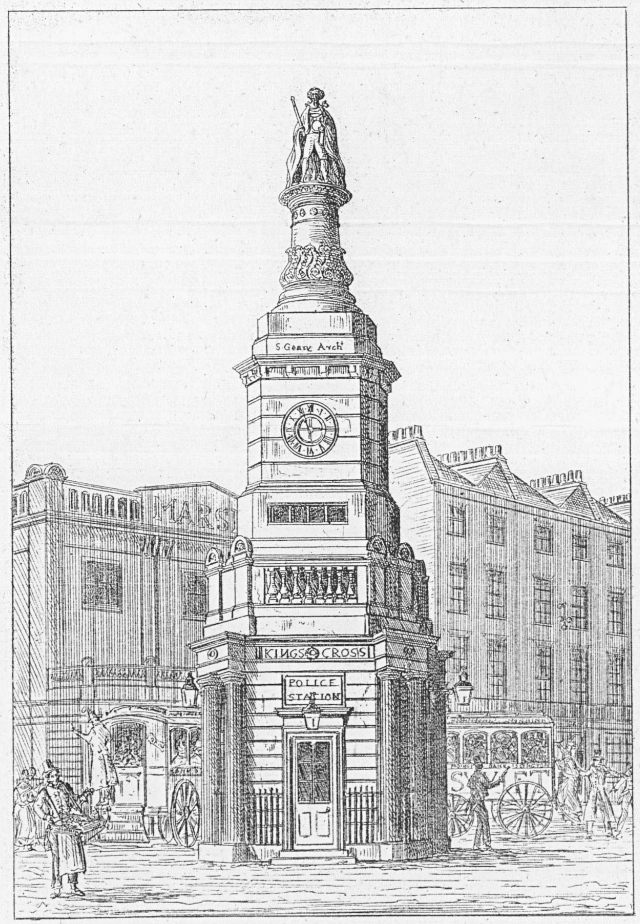
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PVBLIC CONDVITS



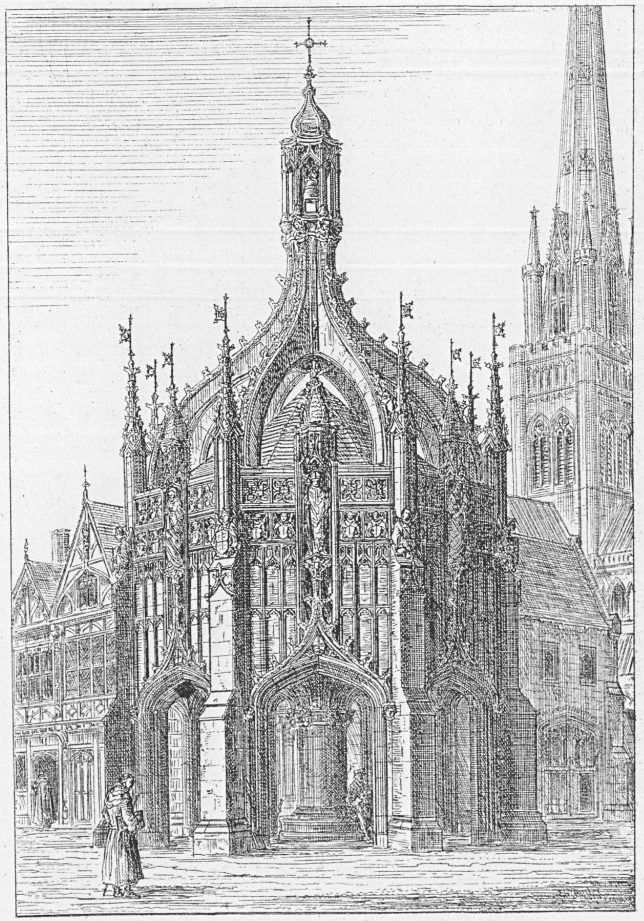
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THOMAS IDAM 1479

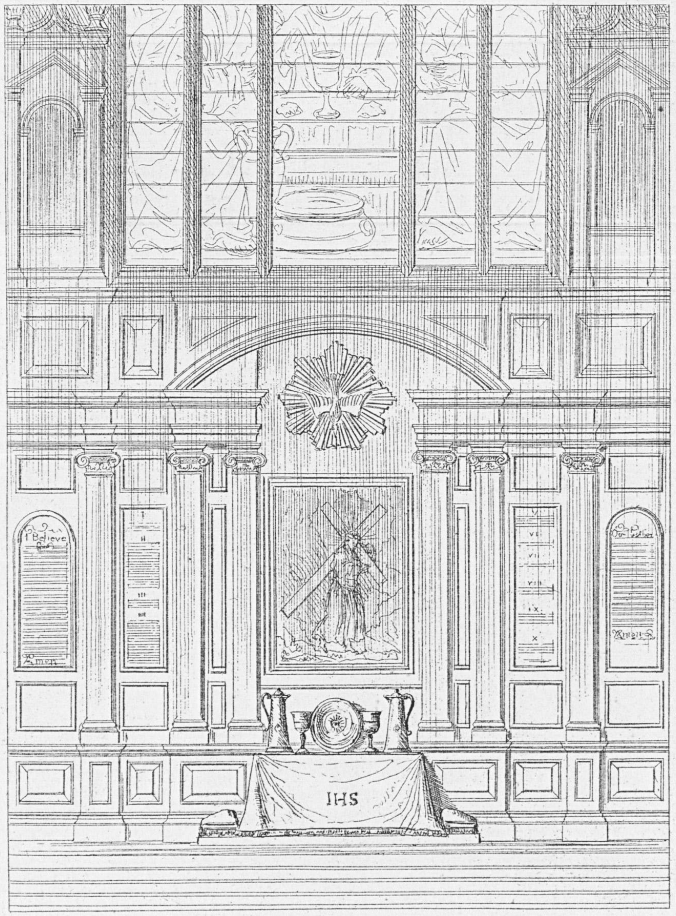



KINGS CROSS BATTLE BRIDGE
S Geary Arch'

CONTRASTED CROSSES

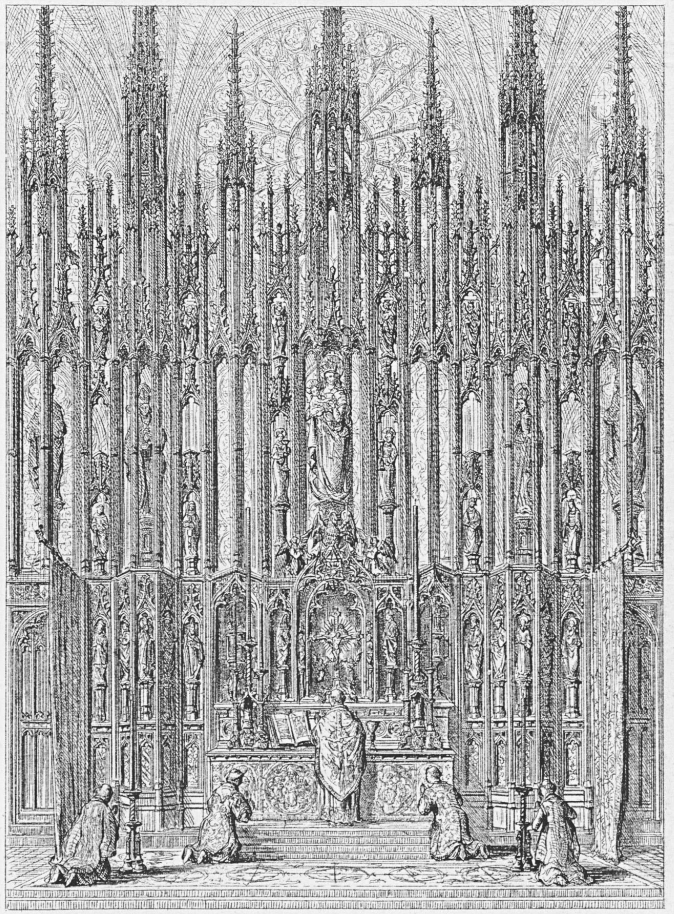


CHICHESTER CROSS

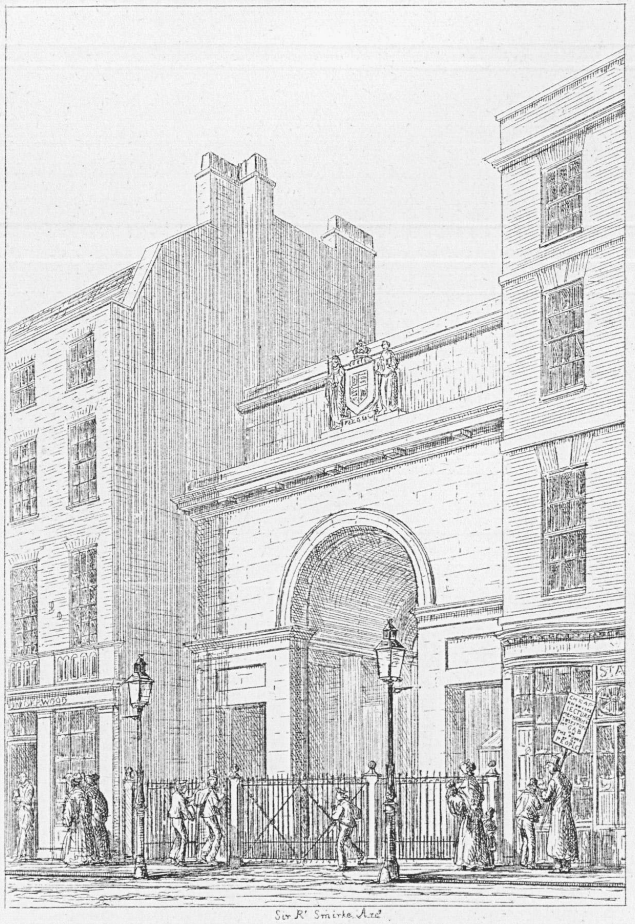



HEREFORD CATHEDRAL 1330

CONTRASTED ALTAR SCREENS

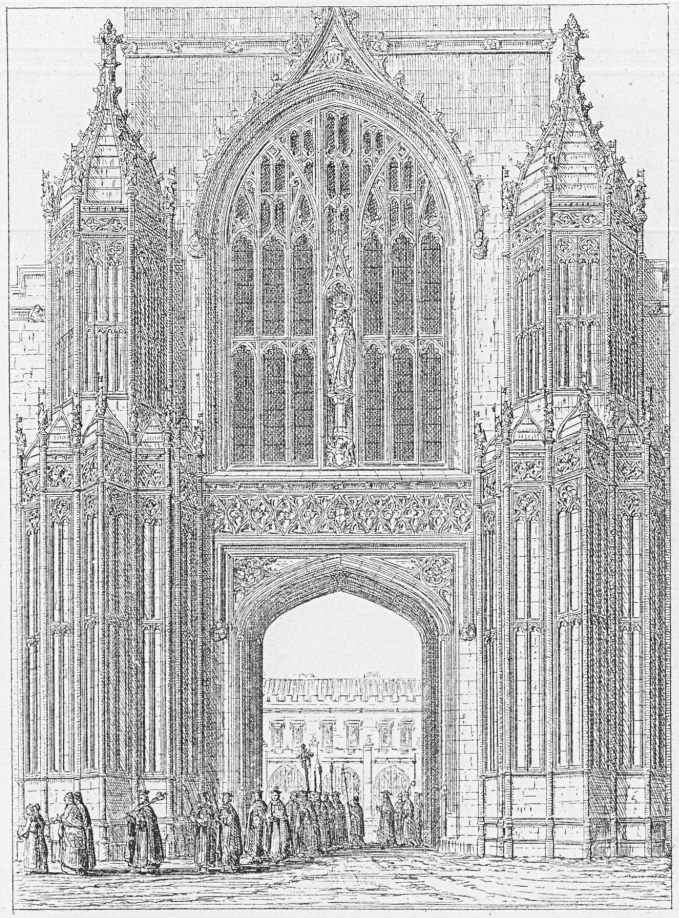


DURHAM ABBEY IN 1430



Sir R' Smirke Arch.

KINGS COLLEGE STRAND



CHRIST'S COLLEGE OXFORD

CONTRASTED COLLEGE GATEWAYS

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destruction neglect vile

mutilated degraded

demolished decay destructive

paltry destroyed

mutilations meagre ravages

defaced debased

corrupt miserable disastrous

offensive desecration

profanation deformity demolition

havoc degenerate

detestable hideous plunder

destructions incongruous

tasteless mouldering ruined

degeneracy dreadful

horrible lamentable disgrace

inappropriate devastation

desecrated barbarous absurdities

glorious venerable beautiful

solemn splendid

noble sacred glory

exquisite wonderful

devotion sublime precious

vast excellence

rich holy reverence

devout appropriate

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