

All persons of taste must, with Mr. Ruskin, deplore the manner in which modern English towns are run up on 'the brick-and-plaster system,' presenting interminable lines of streets, in which every house is an exact counterpart of its neighbour, except perhaps in size, and in which one street resembles another as much as two of the bricks with which they are built. The town of Crewe in Cheshire, built within the last half century, and now containing a large number of inhabitants, is the most perfect specimen of a modern brick town built upon the strictest principles of utility without taste; and yet, that it is possible to make use even of red brick with an eye to beauty, is sufficiently clear from the examples we have in the cities of Chester and Shrewsbury, and the quaint and picturesque old farms and manor-houses which bedeck the shires of Chester and Salop themselves.

In contemplating these monotonous lines of brick walling, the only relief which is afforded to the mind is by the reflection that, owing to the flimsy manner in which they have been built, and the badness of the material itself, they cannot last for a lengthened period; and that they may possibly be replaced by other structures, in which some slight regard for appearance may be exhibited.

I here wish to anticipate the reply, that small