

OLDHAM.  
70 Feet Front.

C. A. Busby, del.

# WEST ELEVATIONS, OF THE INTENDED CHURCHES

LEEDS, AND OLDHAM,

UNANIMOUSLY  
APPROVED BY THE

LOCAL COMMITTEES

ACTING UNDER AUTHORITY FROM

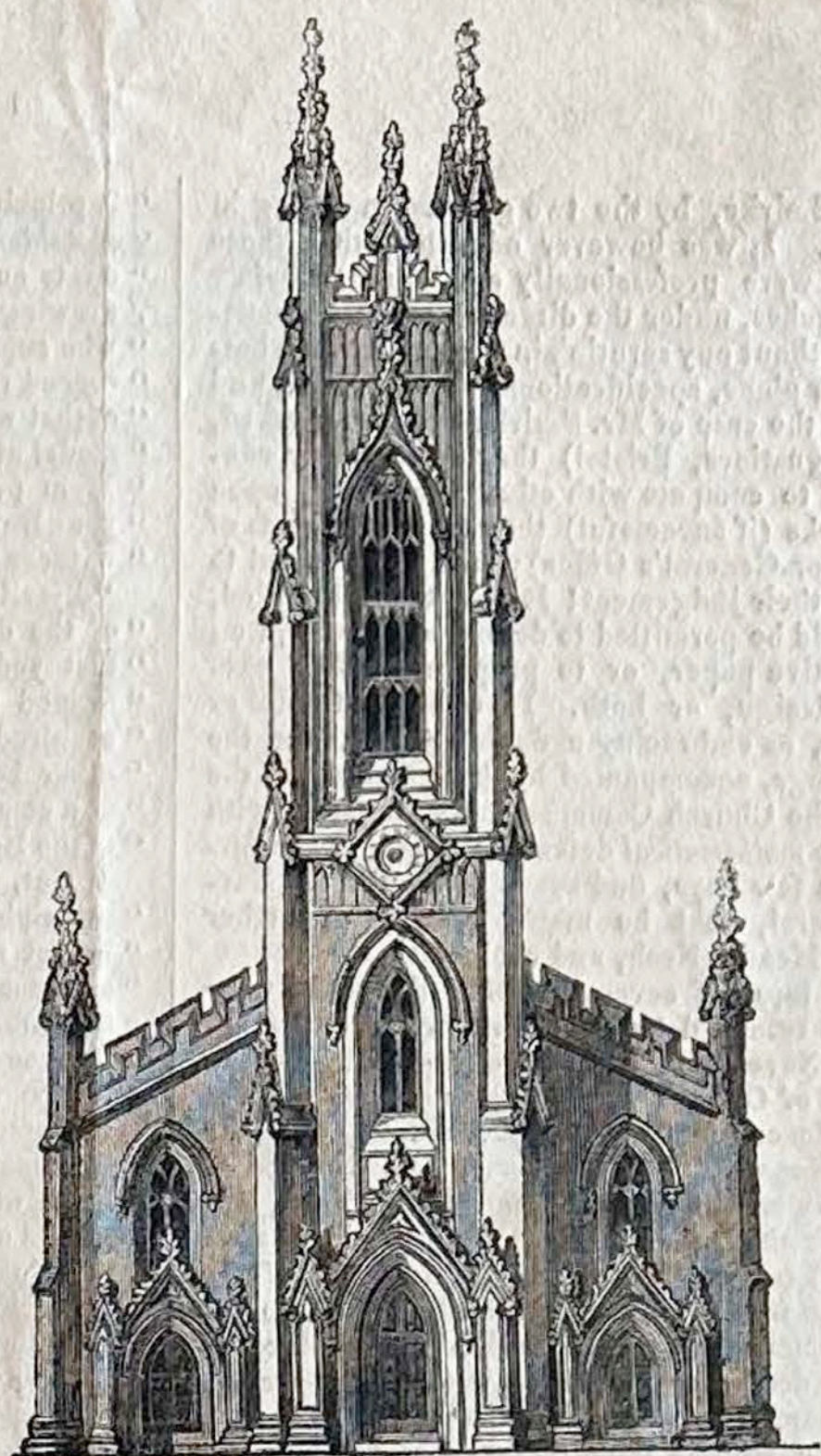
HIS MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS

For Building Additional Churches.

A. D. 1821.

C. A. BUSBY, ARCHITECT,

OFFICE, No. 18,  
LONDON STREET, FITZROY SQUARE.



LEEDS.  
70 Feet Front.

C. A. Busby, del.

A STATEMENT OF THE PROCEEDINGS BEFORE HIS MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS FOR BUILDING ADDITIONAL CHURCHES, AND OTHER PERSONS, IN RELATION TO THE INTENDED CHURCHES AT LEEDS, AND OLDHAM, 1821, 1822.

To render the following particulars distinctly intelligible, it will be proper to commence by observing that, on the 30th of May, 1818, an Act of Parliament was passed, entitled, "An Act for the Building and the promoting the Building of additional Churches in populous Parishes;" and that a million sterling was granted, in aid of that important object.

By this Act, His Majesty was empowered, to appoint an unlimited number of Commissioners, "any five of whom might act in execution of the powers of this Act."—The present Commissioners are, the Archbishops of Canterbury, and York; the Bishops of London, Chester, Litchfield and Coventry, Winchester, and Killaloe; the Earls Eldon, Harrowby, Liverpool, and Hardwick; Viscount Sidmouth; Lords Grenville, Kenyon, Colchester, and Stowell; the Right Honourables Sir John Nicoll, C. Manners Sutton, N. Vansittart, C. Bathurst, and W. Huskisson; the Dean of Westminster; the Archdeacons Wollaston, Cambridge, Pott, and Eyre; the Reverend J. Headlam; F. Burton, and Joshua Watson, Esq.; and Colonel Stephenson. The Commissioners have authority to appoint a Secretary (George Jenner, Esq.), and Clerk (Mr. Wm. Richardson), to order Surveys, Reports, &c. and are required to draw up rules for their proceedings; with "power to alter or vary any such regulations, and to make any further additional regulations, as they may deem expedient;" subject to the approval of His Majesty in Council. Other clauses render it imperative upon Parishes, unprovided with accommodation for the spiritual instruction of a certain proportion of their population, (and possessed of sufficient means,) to provide scites for new Churches; but, giving the Commissioners full power to provide both scites, and Churches, where the pecuniary circumstances of the Inhabitants, may seem to render such a course advisable.

To carry this Act into operation, the Commissioners have found it convenient to refer the details of proceedings to a Committee, consisting of five Members; but of whom frequently not more than three, and sometimes only two, have leisure to attend. The Members of this Committee are, the Right Honourable Lord Kenyon, the Reverend Archdeacons Wollaston, and Cambridge, Joshua Watson, Esq. and Colonel Stephenson, the Surveyor-General of His Majesty's Office of Works. The resolutions of the Committee are necessarily submitted to the Board of Commissioners, in order to their legalization, but as the Committee consists of Gentlemen, who are themselves leading Commissioners, the result of their representations to the Board may generally be anticipated. Such, indeed, is the occasional difficulty of procuring a sufficient attendance of Members, on board-days, that the Messenger is sometimes dispatched, after the appointed hour of meeting has elapsed, to urge the presence of one, or two, in order to collect the quorum of five, required by the Act. It must, however, in candour be stated, that the Board-room is, in some instances, honoured with a more numerous assemblage, and that a fuller attendance at Committees is not uncommon.

During the course of proceedings under the Act, it has generally been found that Parishes, whose claims have obtained a preference, were able, and willing to provide scites; and in such cases it has been usual for a number of the most respectable Inhabitants to associate themselves under the sanction of the Incumbent, or officiating Minister, in order to form what is termed a Local Committee, to negotiate with His Majesty's Commissioners. It has also been customary with the Board of Commissioners, after having approved of the scites, respectively, to direct these Local Committees to furnish them with plans for the intended Church, or Churches, as the case may be. In some instances the Local Committees have, consequently, invited a professional competition among Architects, in order to make a selection; in others, they have proceeded to nominate an architect, and to instruct him to prepare designs. The first course was pursued at Leeds, in Yorkshire; the latter at Oldham, in Lancashire; and, in both these cases, I had the satisfaction to find my plans adopted, under very flattering circumstances of professional approbation.

Both my designs were duly forwarded by the Local Committees of Leeds, and Oldham, to the Board in London; and came regularly under consideration, in the Spring of 1821. The peculiarities of each Church were elucidated in strict conformity to the following particulars; which are reprinted from one of the cards, circulated by the Secretary of the Board, among the Local Committees.

### "PARTICULARS

- "Required, when Plans and Elevations of a Church or Chapel are submitted to the Board.
- "Ground Plan of the Building.
- "The Altar being placed at the East end.
- "Plan of Galleries, if any.
- "Elevations.
- "The form of the Roof, as intended to be framed, figured.
- "Longitudinal and Transverse Sections.
- "All in plain Indian Ink.
- "Scale, one-eighth of an Inch to a Foot.
- "Number of Persons to be seated in Pews.
- "Ditto, in Free Seats.
- "Pews to be not less than Two Feet Ten Inches wide, and Twenty Inches to be allowed to each Person.
- "Free Seats to be Two Feet Three Inches wide, and Twenty Inches to be allowed for Adults.
- "A Specification, and a detailed Estimate of the Work, and Prices of the different Articles of Building."

My designs were received by the Commissioners, in a manner extremely gratifying to my feelings. The Bishop of Chester, in particular, was pleased to observe to me, that he preferred the one intended for Oldham, in his Lordship's diocese, to any he had yet seen, among those already before the Board. The plans, specifications, and estimates, were subsequently referred to Mr. Edward Mawley, Surveyor to the Commissioners, for verification; that Gentleman examined them in due rotation with the plans of other Churches, and eventually made a favourable report upon them; informing me, at the same time, in answer to my particular enquiries, that, when working drawings were required, I should receive instructions from the Board. The whole were now referred by the Committee to the Surveyor-General, (one of their own Members) in order to procure a Report upon the proposed construction, from Mr. SOANE, MR. NASH, and MR. SMIRKE, the three Architects attached to his office.

Being in attendance at the Board-room, (No. 12, Great George Street, Westminster) when the Reports, from the Architects of the Office of Works, came under the consideration of the Church Commissioners, on the 11th of September, 1821, (for a very considerable period had been occupied in all the previous proceedings) I was called before the three Gentlemen, Mr. Archdeacon Wollaston, the Surveyor-General, and Mr. Watson, then sitting in Committee. Mr. Archdeacon Wollaston, as Chairman, addressed me; saying, he was sorry to communicate, that a Report of a most serious nature, had been made by the Architects of the Surveyor-General's Office; and the more so, as it would unavoidably impair the confidence which would otherwise have been placed, by His Majesty's Commissioners, in my professional capability. That it behoved the Committee to proceed with caution, and that it had, therefore, been already resolved to send copies of the following Report, to the Local Committees of Leeds, and Oldham, in order that they might be apprized of what was going forward,

### REPORT.—OLDHAM.

"The Drawings given for this Church do not describe the intended construction sufficiently, to enable us to report upon the whole of it; but the Roof, according to the drawing of one of the Principals, would be extremely weak and insecure.

### REPORT.—LEEDS.

"The remarks made upon the drawings for the preceding Church, apply in every respect to these."  
(Signed) "JOHN NASH."  
"ROBERT SMIRKE."  
(But not Signed by Mr. Soane. C. A. B.)

In reply to this serious, and unexpected address, it is sufficiently obvious that I could, at the moment, do nothing more than aver my surprise, express my undiminished confidence in the proposed construction, and offer to prove its stability on the spot, if the plans (then in the room) were laid upon the table. This was objected to, and I was informed by Mr. Archdeacon Wollaston, that, if I could offer any thing in support, or explanation, at the next meeting, it would probably be attended to.

Satisfied that the Roofs (constructed in a great measure of iron) did not merit the censure thus hastily passed upon them, I took immediate steps to obtain the opinions of some of the first Architects, and practical Engineers, on the subject; but without informing them from whence objections had proceeded. I was consequently favoured with the following corroborative communications, from eight professional

gentlemen (the whole number consulted) in the short period of five days.

"Sir,  
"Lambeth, Sept. 13, 1821.  
"Having examined the sketches of two roofs, and heard your explanations of them, I have no doubt but they are more than sufficiently strong, and likely to stand as long as the materials last: having fixed several upon a similar principle, which have been standing several years in the most perfect manner.  
"With respect, I remain, your's, &c.  
(Signed) "HENRY MAUDSLAY."  
"C. A. Busby, Esq."

"My Dear Sir,  
"Grange Road, Bermondsey, Sept. 14, 1821.  
"I have examined the sketch of the principal for a roof, which you left me yesterday, and instead of taking your estimated weight, viz. eighteen tons, six hundred weight, as that which each principal will have to bear, I have supposed it to be twenty tons—  
F. I.  
"The span, as per drawing, 29 0  
"The perpendicular rise, 12 4  
"The length of the king-post, 5 0 in. in.  
"The lower principal of cast iron, 12x11 1/2,  
"equal 18 area the wrought Iron Bar,  
"5x3/4 and allowing for key-holes, I have taken its sectional area at 3 inches.  
"And I find, on a rough estimate, that a principal so constructed, of sound materials, would bear above a 100 tons, provided the king-post be strong enough. Upon the latter I could make no calculation, as I had not the dimensions.  
"I am, dear Sir, your's very truly,  
"Mr. Busby. (Signed) "BRYAN DONKIN."

"Sir,  
"Pimlico, 14th Sept. 1821, 9 P.M.  
"I have not found time to enter into the calculation (I promised you this morning) of what the cast iron principals, of your proposed Roofs of the two Churches, you are about to build in Yorkshire, will actually bear with safety; but judging from various examples I have seen, and in particular some Roofs, erected by my friend Mr. Maudslay, in his own works, (which are upon a somewhat similar principle) I have no hesitation to pronounce them fully adequate to any weight they can be subjected to, by the purlins and covering; indeed, according to my view of the case, you have been rather profuse in the employment of material, provided not more than Eighteen Tons, 6 cwt. (as you state) be the load which each principal has to sustain. I send you these brief remarks, understanding that a speedy reply is essential to you.  
I am, Sir, your's faithfully,  
"Mr. C. A. Busby. (Signed) "TIMY. BRAMAH."

"Dear Sir,  
"6, Leigh Street, Burton Crescent, 14th, September, 1821.  
"I have examined the drawings of the two Roofs you sent me, for the Churches at Leeds and Oldham; and having, as you know, been very much accustomed to the use of cast iron, I have no hesitation in saying, that I conceive them amply sufficient for the purpose for which they are intended; and, that you need not be under any fear of their giving way; if any thing, I think them stronger than necessary.  
"I am, dear Sir, your's very truly,  
"JOHN MILLINGTON,  
Civil Engineer, and Professor of Mechanics in the Royal Institution.  
"C. A. Busby, Esq."

"Sir,  
"69, High Holborn, 14 Sept. 1821.  
"The plan and capacity of the Iron Roofs, which you have exhibited to me, appear to have no material defect, but the circumstance of their being, in my estimation, much too heavy and strong. I am making now, three large roofs, considerably lighter, and much greater span, and I have no fear whatever of their durability or strength.  
"I am, Sir, your's respectfully,  
"Mr. C. A. Busby. (Signed) "A. GALLOWAY."

"Dear Sir,  
"39, Finsbury Square, 15th Sept. 1821.  
"I am sorry that my engagements to-day prevented me from looking at the sketch of the principal of your Roof, until the last moment you gave me. From the superficial view I have, however, taken of it, I have no doubt of its being sufficiently strong, for any covering of moderate weight, and calculating upon the distance of the principals, not exceeding 16 feet 8 inches.  
"I remain, your's very truly,  
(Signed) "J. WALKER."  
(Architect and Engineer to Vauxhall Bridge.)  
"C. A. Busby, Esq."

"Dear Sir,  
"Chelsea, September 16, 1821.  
"I have inspected the drawing of your cast iron roof, which you propose to place over a building with a span of 29 feet. I have no hesitation in

"stating, that it is more than adequate to the strength required for supporting the roof of that building.  
"I am, dear Sir, your's very truly,  
(Signed) "Mc. J. BRUNEL."  
(Inventor of the celebrated Block Machine in the Royal Dock-Yard, Portsmouth. C. A. B.)  
"Mr. Busby, Architect."

"Sir,  
"2, Grove Terrace, 17th Sept. 1821.  
"I have examined a sketch of a Roof for a Church which you left for my opinion upon this morning; and having estimated its strength, it appears to me that it will be perfectly secure, if executed in a workman-like manner, of proper materials, and the iron and wooden parts connected, and braced, in the way you propose.  
"I am, Sir, your most obedient Servant,  
(Signed) "THOMAS TREGGOLD."  
(Author of the best English Treatise on Carpentry, and Roofs. C. A. B.)  
"To Mr. Busby."

At the next meeting of the Church Commissioners, on the 18th of September, 1821, the Secretary was informed, that I was in attendance with some important and satisfactory information, relating to the late Report from Messrs. Nash and Smirke. I was accordingly invited before Mr. Archdeacon Wollaston, and the Surveyor-General, the only gentlemen present, and then sitting in Committee.

I prefaced an oral address, by requesting the Report of Messrs. Nash and Smirke might be read, which was accordingly done by the Secretary. Then producing one of the printed cards of particulars, circulated by the authority of the Board, I proved that both sets of plans, specifications, and estimates, had been delivered in strict compliance thereto. I also observed, that since Mr. Mawley, the Surveyor, had been able to render a satisfactory account of the intended Building, from such documents as those already furnished, Messrs. Nash and Smirke might reasonably be expected to find little difficulty in following his example. But that, if I had been informed, or had even understood, that further drawings were required in the present stage of proceedings, I should most undoubtedly have furnished them. That in fact, Mr. Mawley himself, in answer to my enquiries on that subject, had repeatedly told me that further drawings were not wanted, and would not even be accepted, till I should receive particular instructions from the Board to produce them.

I then proceeded to animadvert upon that part of the Report which bore upon the Roof. I repeated my former affirmation, that I had not proposed the peculiar construction without due consideration, and was still satisfied, as I had ever been, of its ample solidity. But, that, in consequence of the unexpected objections of Messrs. Nash and Smirke, I had thought it advisable to take the opinions of eight leading Professional Gentlemen, and would proceed to read to the Committee their letters, addressed to me, on the subject. Mr. Archdeacon Wollaston instantly checked me; the Reverend Gentleman observed, that Messrs. Nash and Smirke had volunteered their services, and acted gratuitously, and that it was, therefore, the decided intention of the Church Commissioners, to shield them from professional disputation. That if I had produced an argument, it might have been received; but that the testimonials in my hands were altogether inadmissible; he would not even hear the names of their respective authors!

To this I replied, that had the Report itself been of an argumentative nature, I would most readily have disproved it by argument; but that, as it consisted, on the contrary, of an unqualified assertion, it could not be better met than in the way I proposed. I trusted, however, as the Reverend Archdeacon was against receiving the papers, it would be conceded to me, that they were of a powerful nature. I also thought it necessary to inform the Committee (lest in consequence of any future inaccurate recollection of dates, I might hereafter appear to have acted in opposition to the Rev. Archdeacon's expressed wish) that I had already sent copies of all the testimonials, to the Local Committees at Leeds, and Oldham. Mr. Archdeacon Wollaston instantly expressed his serious disapproval of the measure. I replied, that it had been rendered necessary by the act of the Committee themselves, at their last meeting, when they had directed copies of the Report of Messrs. Nash and Smirke, upon my Plans, to be sent to those places, where it was calculated to do me great injury, unless refuted. Mr. Archdeacon Wollaston earnestly inquired whether the Report had actually been sent: the Secretary did not know, but would enquire; and, leaving the room to consult the Clerk, said, on his return, "it was really gone, according to the order of the last Committee."

This explanation seemed conclusive; a desultory discussion ensued, during the course of which some elevated eulogiums were bestowed upon Messrs.

Engraved on Wood, by H. White, 15, St. John's Lane.

Feb 18 22?

THE FOLLOWING IS UNCONNECTED WITH THE PRECEDING STATEMENT.

London, February, 1822.

Mr. Busby avails himself of the present opportunity, to state, that it is his intention to publish, *by Subscription*, in one volume, quarto, (price two guineas on delivery), a particular description of the principal STATE PRISONS and PENITENTIARIES of the *United States of America*; illustrated with about twenty plates, of those establishments in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia; from Drawings made, and documents obtained on the spot *by himself*, in the years 1818 and 19.

The attention of the public having been, of late years, particularly directed to the improvement of *Prisons*, and of *Prison discipline*, and repeated reference having been made in Parliament, and elsewhere, by many distinguished characters, to the *American penal establishments*, Mr. Busby is led to suppose, that the faithful representation of their *arrangement*, and *internal economy*, by an *actual observer*, will not be deemed unworthy, the patronage he solicits.

Should any of the distinguished, and other individuals, to whose hands this paper may arrive, feel disposed to encourage the present undertaking, they are respectfully requested to transmit the earliest expression of that obliging intention, to Mr. Busby, *per post*, or otherwise, stating whether they wish to be supplied with the *common* paper, or *Royal* Edition.

The work will be respectfully dedicated to Thomas Fowell Buxton, Esq. M. P. by express permission of that Gentleman.

A few Copies will be printed on ROYAL PAPER, hot-pressed, price three Guineas.

*Recently Published* by the same Author, (price one Guinea), a detailed print, 40x26 inches, of the MAGNIFICENT SUSPENDED WOODEN BRIDGE, across the Delaware, at Trenton, in the United States of America, (*from actual admeasurement*). This structure far surpasses the famous Bridge of Schaffhausen, destroyed by the French, during the late War.

The print is illustrated with a particular description of the construction, and may be procured from Mr. Busby, at his Office, 18, London Street, Fitzroy Square.

This publication is already possessed by two hundred Professors, and Amateurs of Architecture.

N.B. THE SEAL TO BE



OPENED CAREFULLY.

Relating to the Business of His Majesty's Commissioners for Building additional Churches.

John Lawrence Esq. R.A.  
de  
Lancaster Town Guild

HYDRAULIC ORRERY.

London, January, 1822.

Having seen the HYDRAULIC ORRERY, invented by Mr. C. A. Busby, (Architect and Engineer), in action, we feel much pleasure in testifying our decided approval of the apparatus, as exhibiting a *novel*, *ingenious*, and *elegant* application of Hydraulic force.

Charles Hutton, (L. L. D. F. R. S.)  
Olinthus Gregory, (L. L. D., Roy. Mil. Acad.)  
Edward Troughton, (F. R. S. Lond. et Edin.)

P. Kelly, (L. L. D.)  
Timothy Bramah.  
Francis Bramah.

This Invention is proposed as a grand, *instructive*, and scientific ornament, for Parks, Dressed Grounds, and Public Areas. It appears to be excited by *spontaneous impulse*, and displays, with impressive silence, and with the most harmonious movements, the circuits, obliquities, parallels, and rotations, of the Sun, the Earth, and the Moon; while the unruffled surface of the fluid beneath, reflects the System, and doubles the illusion. The apparatus is not subject to derangement, and may be erected at a moderate expense, on a magnificent, or comparatively small scale, on any natural or artificial bason, in the open air. It can also be preserved in *constant motion*, by such a minute supply of water, as *may be found in almost every situation*.

The original machine is submitted, merely as a handsome acting model. It is, however, of such ample dimensions, as will suffice to render it an *elegant*, and *interesting* appendage to any *Conservatory*, or *Aquarium*. And, if the motive principles be surrounded by an occasional skreen of flowers, the Planetary evolutions, extending above them, will elicit an effect, most truly *ærial*.

Office, 18, London Street, Fitzroy Square.

Attendance from 10 till 5, between which hours the Hydraulic Orrery, may be seen in action.

P. S. For a particular explanation of the improved principle of motion, adopted in the Hydraulic Orrery, resulting from a *new application of the Syphon*, discovered by Mr. Busby, see Dr. Tilloch's Philosophical Magazine, for December, 1821

ing of one of the principals, would be extremely weak and insecure. The same remarks were also said to be applicable to the church intended for Leeds. Of the second report, in October, or November 1821, I have not a copy; but it stated a second design, for the roof to be what you could not recommend, though not so objectionable as that first proposed; and then went on to unfavorably animadvert on the manner of fixing the galleries; which was, in fact, the same as that already approved, and adopted at Bordesley, Portsea, and Ashton.

I trust you will not deem me pertentious, for the firm stand I feel myself compelled to make, for every thing that is valuable in professional character; and as you very candidly admit that you may have erred, I trust you will perceive the justice and propriety with which I call upon you to use your best endeavours to bring the question at issue, to a fair and honorable decision; and that you will request the Church Commissioners, with whom you are said to have great interest, to keep the two appointments vacant in the interim.

It may be proper for me to inform you that, the Board have already refused to hear counter-evidence in opposition to your report; presuming it to be incontrovertible; and have, in fact, dismissed me peremptorily, and without a hearing; you will therefore perceive the necessity of some immediate steps on your part, unless it should be your final determination to abide by the Reports already made upon my plans; in which case, my only resource will be in the immediate prosecution of the measure recommended by my professional friends, at their meeting, on the 28th ult.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your very obedient Servant,  
(Signed) C. A. BUSBY.

R. Smirke, Esq.  
The second letter to Mr. Nash has not yet been answered; but the following reply, from Mr. Smirke, was duly received, after an interval of one week.

Brighton, Jan. 14. 1822.  
Sir,  
I have received your letter, and beg to acquaint you that I decline interfering in your discussions with His Majesty's Commissioners.

I remain, Sir, your obedient Servant,  
C. A. Busby, Esq. (Signed) R. SMIRKE.

It will be apparent, from the date of Mr. Smirke's second letter, that it was not written till some time after the meeting of the Board of Church Commissioners, appointed for the 8th of Jan. 1822. And, since Messrs. Nash and Smirke were both out of town during the correspondence, I took occasion to address the following letter to Col. Stephenson (the Surveyor-General) in order that my interests might not suffer from the absence of those gentlemen: for I began to entertain some serious hope that Messrs. Nash, and Smirke would not object to aid my endeavours to obtain justice.

London-street, Fitzroy-square, 7th Jan. 1822.  
Sir,  
I take the liberty to inform you, that a correspondence has recently taken place between the two Architects of the Board of Works, who have lately reported upon my plans, and myself. In this correspondence, the high professional respectability of the eight gentlemen, who have testified in favour of my roofs, has been acknowledged without hesitation. And also that the condemnatory reports upon my plans may have been wrongfully made; coupled, however, with an observation that the error can only be corrected through the medium of a reference by the Church Commissioners, to yourself, as Surveyor-General, for the purpose of further investigation.

But, my plans having been rejected by the Church Commissioners, in consequence of the Reports from the gentlemen above-mentioned; and the Board relying on the presumed accuracy of the Reports in question, having already refused to entertain the counter documents presented to them, I submit that, any further individual application from myself would be very much out of place. Yet, as the evil of which I have so much reason to complain, has, however inadvertently, arisen in your office, I beg, respectfully, to claim the benefit of your interference, with the other Church Commissioners, at their meeting to-morrow, for the purpose of obtaining a delay in filling up the two appointments, now vacant, in consequence of my dismissal; until there shall have been afforded to me a just, and equitable means, of vindicating my professional character.

I beg to add, that I should not have intruded myself upon you, on this occasion, had not Mr. Nash, and Mr. Smirke, been both out of town.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your very obedient Servant,  
(Signed) C. A. BUSBY.

To Col. Stephenson, Surveyor-General, &c.

To this letter, Col. Stephenson replied as follows:  
Sir,  
Office of Works, 9th Jan. 1822.  
I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, and beg leave, in answer, to inform you, that the representations respecting your proposed plans and designs for the new Churches, must be addressed to the Commissioners at their office, or submitted to them through their Secretary.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your most obedient Servant,  
(Signed) B. C. STEPHENSON.  
C. A. Busby, Esq.

This letter from Col. Stephenson induced me to address the Board at their meeting on the 22d of Jan. 1822. My communication was conceived in the following terms, and was accompanied by copies of

the correspondence, between Col. Stephenson, and myself.

London-street, Fitzroy-square, Jan. 14. 1822.  
To the Right Hon. and Hon. His Majesty's Commissioners for Building additional Churches.

My Lords and Gentlemen,  
I take the liberty to inform you, that a correspondence has recently taken place between His Majesty's Surveyor General, on the one part, and myself on the other, relative to the Reports from two of the Architects of the Office of Works, upon my plans, lately before the Board, for the intended Churches at Leeds and Oldham. I beg to refer to that correspondence, (of which copies are herewith annexed) as explanatory of the motives which have induced the present address; and in conclusion, respectfully to request you will consent to order the reference to the Surveyor-General, pointed out on the part of the Architects of the Office of Works.

I have the honour to be,  
My Lords and Gentlemen,  
Your very obedient Servant,  
(Signed) C. A. BUSBY.

P. S. It has been suggested on the part of the Architects above-mentioned, that the documents I had the honour to present the Board, on the 15th Novem. 1821, might be included in the reference.

C. A. B.  
On the 22nd of January, I attended the Board-room where I was informed that my presence would not be necessary, on the subject of my last application. But by a curious coincidence it happened, that as I entered the House occupied by His Majesty's Commissioners, I met Mr. Nash coming out. I was about to address that Gentleman, (to whom I am personally known, notwithstanding his forgetfulness), almost by spontaneous impulse; but he passed me in great haste, and left me quite unnoticed. I have been unable to ascertain with certainty what occurred between the Board and Mr. Nash; and therefore refrain from observing more, than that motives of candour had induced me to apprise Mr. Nash, Mr. Smirke, and the Surveyor-General, by letter, of the precise nature of the application which would come under the consideration of the Board, that very day. On the 25th of January, the following communication from Mr. Jenner, conveyed to me the answer directed by His Majesty's Commissioners, on the 22nd.

Doctors Commons, 25th Jan. 1822.  
Sir,  
I have laid before His Majesty's Commissioners for Building New Churches, your letter of the 14th instant, with the papers enclosed therein, in respect to the plans prepared by you, for the Church proposed to be built at Oldham, and one of the Churches at Leeds; and am directed to acquaint you, that the Board do not see any reason to alter the opinion which has been already expressed in respect to your Plans.  
I am, Sir, your very obedient Servant,  
Mr. Busby. (Signed) GEORGE JENNER.  
Secretary

I now determined to adopt more active measures, in compliance with the ultimate recommendation of my professional friends; but availed myself of the interval necessary to pass through the press, to address the following communication to the Board; in order that His Majesty's Commissioners might be duly notified of my feelings on the case, and of my reasons for following the decisive course I intended to pursue.

London, Jan. 26, 1822.  
To the Right Honourable and Honourable His Majesty's Commissioners, for Building additional Churches.

My Lords and Gentlemen,  
I take the liberty to inform you, that I have received a letter from Mr. Jenner, dated 25th instant, informing me that the Board do not see any reason to alter the opinion which has already been expressed in respect to my plans.

It now behoves me to state, that in the application I made to His Majesty's Commissioners, on this subject, on the 14th instant, I did not call for any immediate alteration in the determination that had been previously expressed; nor could I possibly suppose, that the Members of the Board, entertained any responsible opinion of their own, on a subject which is strictly professional; and with which it must, therefore be presumed they are entirely unacquainted.

That any revision can have taken place before the Board, or by Messrs. Nash and Smirke, privately, is rendered impossible, by the fact that the whole of my plans have been returned to me, about one month since; each of them disfigured with a conspicuous, and derogatory inscription, and are still in my possession.

My claim was merely for the revision of the reports upon my plans, grounded on the written admissions of Mr. Nash and Smirke, (the Architects by whom these Reports were made,) that the countervailing testimony of the eight Architects, and Engineers, who have pronounced upon the ample sufficiency of my plans, was entitled to the utmost respect, and that their own opinion might be wrong; as well as upon the prominent fact, that those Gentlemen, (the Architects of the Board of Works) have already approved of certain constructive principles in the Galleries of the Churches at Ashton, Bordesley, and Portsea, while in my plans for the Churches at Leeds, and Oldham, they have rejected a similar construction as inadmissible!

Upon these powerful facts, coupled with the circumstance that my plans have been rejected, without any opportunity having been afforded me, of discussing with your Architects, the grounds of their objections; and without the Board having deigned to consult any one of the eight eminent Architects, and Engineers, whose certificates I have had the honor to lay before them; I cannot but express my astonishment, that His Majesty's Commissioners should persist in a determination, founded on the unsupported opinion of Messrs. Nash and Smirke,

(whose works it is well-known have in some instances failed), in direct opposition to that of eight other Gentlemen, of the highest professional character; and the more so, as my request went no further than to invite a revision.

It may possibly be urged, that the Board are required by their legal constitution, to follow certain rules they have prescribed for their own proceedings; and that the treatment which I have so unjustly experienced, has been founded upon the same general principle, that has caused the rejection of several plans produced by other Architects. Should this argument be adduced, it will be necessary to observe, that no other Report from Messrs. Nash and Smirke, has been met by the positive contradiction of eight respectable professional judges. And again, if the existing regulations made by His Majesty's Commissioners themselves, have prevented them from investigating a case, so remarkable as the present, would not the Board have been fully justified in an immediate appeal to that clause in the Act, which so wisely gives them power to alter, and amend their regulations?

But, I have already so often urged my fruitless remonstrances, with those perfect feelings of respect which are due to every Member of the Board, that I have no disposition whatever, to intrude myself further. Yet as I can never silently acquiesce in a decision, that peremptorily precludes inquiry, and deprives me of the most honorable, and equitable means, of justifying my professional character; so do I think it proper, respectfully to inform His Majesty's Commissioners, that I have put to press a complete statement of the case, including the entire correspondence, and several other important documents, to the present date, inclusive; and that I intend, in pursuance of the unanimous advice of my professional friends, (at their meeting held at the Salopian Coffee House, on the 28th ultimo.) to forward copies to every Member of both Houses of Parliament; and to every Architect, and Engineer, in England.

I lament, exceedingly, that all my reiterated attempts, continued during a period of five months, to bring this important, and inexplicable affair to a more equitable issue, have been uniformly repulsed, in limine. But the object of discussion is now changed—it is no longer blended with any reasonable prospect of reparation, for the serious and unmerited injury I have sustained—And I find myself, at length, reluctantly compelled to contend before the Public, for those vital principles, which constitute the animating spirit of my professional existence.  
I have the honor to be,  
My Lords and Gentlemen,  
Your very obedient Servant,  
(Signed) C. A. BUSBY.

#### SUMMARY.

Having thus stated all the particulars of this unexampled case, it remains only to condense the facts, in order to a more succinct, and comprehensive view of the whole affair. It will then appear—

1st. That my designs were originally approved, in a distinguished manner, both by the Local Committees at Leeds, and Oldham, and by His Majesty's Commissioners in London.

2nd. That my plans, specifications, and estimates, having been subjected to a very particular, and scrutinizing examination, by the Surveyor employed by the Board, for that purpose, were found to be correct.

3rd. That the only objections made to my plans, have been those of Messrs. Nash and Smirke.

4th. That the objections made to my plans, by Messrs. Nash and Smirke, have been shewn to be unfounded, by the counter-evidence of eight eminent Architects and Engineers. And that Messrs. Nash and Smirke have neutralized the value of their opinions by rejecting in my plans, what they had previously approved in the plans of other Architects; a circumstance they have not ventured to deny.

5th. That notwithstanding these powerful facts, the few attending Members of the Board, have not only refused to institute any inquiry, whatever, but have, on the contrary, proceeded to dismiss me, on the unsupported, and positively contradicted opinion of Messrs. Nash and Smirke alone; whose own works have repeatedly failed, notwithstanding Mr. Smirke himself has admitted, that his judgment may be wrong.

6th. That I have incurred a pecuniary loss, exceeding £150 in travelling expences, Clerk's time, and other incidentals, have sacrificed at least six months incessant occupation. Have had 16 elaborate, and highly finished drawings, with their accompanying specifications, and estimates, disfigured with offensive inscriptions. Have had my reasonable expectations of professional preferment, and emolument, entirely disappointed. And have been finally dismissed in a peremptory, and derogatory manner, notwithstanding my offer to prepare other constructive designs.

And whence all this? not from any demerit, incompetency, or pertinacity of mine.—But—I will not presume to anticipate the reflections of the Reader—

#### CONCLUSION.

I do not venture to suppose, that the particulars above explained, can receive the individual attention of every one to whose hands they may arrive. But if any of those elevated, and honourable characters, (Amateurs, and Professors) among whom I intend to give them an extensive circulation, should feel interested in the peculiar merits of this unexampled case, I take the liberty, respectfully to invite them, to a personal inspection, at my Office, of all the ori-

\* Alluding to the unfortunate affairs of Stourport Bridge, the Houses in Waterloo-place, the roof at Eastnor Castle, the Barracks in the Regent's Park, the Terrace at the Duchy of Cornwall Office, &c. &c. Providentially (it is said) no lives were lost.

ginal Drawings, for the intended Churches at Leeds, and Oldham, submitted to His Majesty's Commissioners, and of the mathematical problem overlooked by Messrs. Nash, and Smirke. I have also provided an accurate diagram of the construction approved, for the galleries of the Churches at Ashton Bordesley, and Portsea, and rejected in my designs.

C. A. BUSBY.

18, London Street, Fitzroy Square,  
February, 1822.

#### POSTSCRIPT.

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS, SOME OF THEM ACCIDENTALLY PRESERVED, ARE ADDED AS TESTIMONIALS OF MY GENERAL PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY.—C. A. B.

Lincolns Inn Fields, 28th October, 1809.

Sir,  
I am sorry that it was not in my power to reply to your letter sooner. You are at liberty to make any reference to me. I have seen several of your works, and shall be happy to bear testimony to their merits.  
I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,  
JOHN SOANE.

(Prof. Arch. Roy. Acad.)  
Mr. C. A. Busby. (C. A. B.)  
Bristol, 23d March, 1810.

Dear Sir,  
I received the letter you did me the favor to address to me, with the plan and elevation of the Commercial Rooms, for which I beg to return you my best thanks.

In executing the important trust reposed in them by the Subscribers, I am of opinion the Committee have not, in any instance, been more fortunate in their endeavours to serve them, than is the choice of the Architect: in this part of the service there seems to be an universal sentiment of approbation; for my own part I feel much satisfaction at our good fortune in this particular, and beg leave to assure you, that if ever you think any service of mine can be useful to you, I shall be most happy to be favoured with an opportunity of convincing you of the sincere regard with which I am,

Dear Sir, your faithful humble servant,  
JOHN LOUDON M'ADAM,  
(President of the Committee.)

Mr. BUSBY, Architect. (C. A. B.)

State Paper Office, Scotland Yard, 18th July 1812.

Sir,  
I have it in command from the Supervisors appointed by His Majesty for the erection of the Penitentiary at Mill-Bank, to request your attention at the House of George Holford, Esq. M. P. Chairman, No. 15, Bolton Street, Piccadilly, on Monday the 29th inst. at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to receive the second Premium (of £100.) awarded to you by the Supervisors, for the Second approved Plan, for the above purpose, agreeable to public advertisement.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
your most obedient humble Servant,  
(Signed) GEORGE VIGURS, Secretary.  
C. A. Busby, Esq.

Custom House, London, 24th February 1821.

Sir,  
I am concerned to inform you, that a sudden and unexpected pressure of official business, which requires my undivided attention, for a considerable period, will put it entirely out of my power to prepare the plans for the projected Church at Oldham; but, in order that you, and the other Gentlemen of the Committee may suffer no delay, or inconvenience from this circumstance, I beg leave to introduce to your notice my friend, Mr. C. A. Busby, Architect, of London Street, Fitzroy Square, (the bearer of this letter,) who is prepared to lay before you several sets of plans, (his own designs), which I have examined with much satisfaction, and which I conceive to be well adapted to the object in view.

Mr. Busby is a gentleman of talent, and experience, he obtained the Gold Medal of the Royal Academy, in the Year 1807, and since that period, has erected several public, and private buildings of magnitude in different parts of the Country. I have, therefore, no doubt the Board in London, will sanction the nomination of Mr. Busby, should you and the other Gentlemen of the Committee entertain the same favorable opinion of his designs as I do.

I cannot conclude without returning you my best thanks for the handsome reception I experienced, when at Oldham, and assuring you, that any favor, or attention, you may be pleased to shew to Mr. Busby, will confer an additional obligation on,

Dear Sir, your obedient faithful Servant,  
(Signed) DAVID LAING.  
(Architect to the New Custom-House.)  
Henry Barlow, Esq. (C. A. B.)  
Oldham, Lancashire.

2, Sion College Gardens.

My dear Sir,  
Aldermanbury, March, 17th. 1821.  
In reply to your favor, I beg to say, that I shall always be most happy to bear testimony to your talent, ability, and correct conduct, as the Architect employed in the planning and erecting of the Episcopal Jew's Chapel, at Bethnal Green, during the years 1813 and 14: and that during my attendance on the Building Committee, which was from the commencement, to the completion, of that important erection, I was entirely satisfied with the whole of your proceedings.

I am, dear Sir, your's very faithfully,  
(Signed) I. W. STEVENS.  
Mr. C. A. Busby.

Royal Academy, London, Jan. 16th. 1822.

This is to certify, that Mr. Charles A. Busby, obtained the Gold Medal for the best Architectural Design, at the Royal Academy, on the 10th of December, 1807.

(Signed) HENRY HOWARD, R. A. Sec.

The particulars, above-stated, develop the originating source, of the lingering nature of proceedings before the Board. The despairing Parshes, at length, request the BOARD to nominate Architects for them, in the hope that their business may, in future, advance by less tardy steps. The Local Committee at Oldham, have actually adopted that measure. And now,——

Nash and Smirke, by the two gentlemen sitting in Committee. It was however admitted, that those Architects were professionally employed to build many Churches, under the direction of the Commissioners, without any scrutinizing examination whatever of their plans, specifications, or estimates; and that (as in the case of Mr. Smirke and Mr. Seward, at St. Augustines, Bristol) they occasionally condescended to compete with other Architects, upon whose works (if successful) they (the Architects of the Surveyor-General's Office) would be required to pronounce their judgement! It was at length settled, that I should be permitted to defend my roofs, in an argumentative paper, or to prepare another constructive design, or both. I preferred the latter alternative, as embracing a double chance, and the new drawings, accompanied by those already in the hands of the Church Commissioners, together with a complete mathematical defensive paper, were furnished in a few days, and again referred to the Surveyor-General, that he might obtain the further opinion of Messrs. Nash, and Smirke thereon.

After a lapse of several weeks, the plans were once more returned by the Surveyor-General. On the 6th of November, I appeared again before the Committee of Church Commissioners, consisting of Mr. Archdeacon Wollaston, Mr. Watson, and the Surveyor-General. The Secretary was directed to read to me a second Report from Messrs. Nash, and Smirke, which, (no doubt from very prudent considerations) entirely disregarded the mathematical defence of the iron roofs; but proceeded to an immediate condemnation of my second Design (constructed of timber) declaring it, nevertheless, to be a comparative improvement on the iron roof, first proposed. The Report then objected to the manner in which the timbers of the gallery, were intended to be attached to the walls and buttresses, notwithstanding the same species of construction had been previously approved, by the Architects of the Surveyor-General's Office, in the designs for the Churches at Ashton, Bordesley, and Portsea! Having concluded the Report, the Secretary proceeded to inform me, *viva voce*, that the three gentlemen sitting in Committee, had already resolved to suspend proceedings with respect to all my plans, at present before the Commissioners, until the sense of the Board could be taken on the late Reports from Messrs. Nash and Smirke. Suspecting that this resolution conveyed more than its literal meaning expressed, I made another (fruitless) endeavour to obtain a hearing of the eight former testimonies, but was briefly reminded, by Mr. Archdeacon Wollaston, that the resolution had already passed, and was irrevocable; but that I might, if I thought proper, address the Board at their next meeting.

I availed myself of Mr. Archdeacon Wollaston's intimation, and presented the following appeal to the Board, at the ensuing Meeting, on the 13th November, 1821.

"London, November 13, 1821.

"To the Right Honourable and Honourable His Majesty's Commissioners for Building additional Churches.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,  
"You will, of course, be duly informed of two Reports which have proceeded from the Board of Works, relative to two plans of mine for the intended Churches at Oldham and Leeds. These designs, accompanied by their estimates and specifications, have, I understand, been generally approved by your Building Committee, after verification by your Surveyor; but being subsequently submitted to two of the Architects, attached to the Office of Works, a statement has been made by those gentlemen, that the roofs of both, according to drawings of the principals, would be extremely weak and insecure.

"It has now become necessary for me to observe, that in making the designs, I have endeavoured to follow the most approved models, adopted by our forefathers in their sacred edifices, so far at least, as the altered circumstances of religious worship would permit. But the modern introduction of galleries, or the necessity of providing for their reception, seeming to preclude a just application of the ancient system, of triple roofing, illuminated by clerestory windows, I endeavoured to combine, under the covering of a single roof, the pleasing effects inseparable from columnar aisles, with the practical facilities afforded by dividing the span into three parts. And, in order to combine the maximum of internal space, and airiness with the minimum of external height, I was induced to propose the use of iron for the principals; because that material affords the means of acquiring the greatest possible strength, in any space of limited dimensions. This is the roof objected to in the first Report.

"Being, from certain circumstances, particularly informed of the strength, and application of metals, I was from the first, satisfied that no material defect existed in the designs of the roof. But the objections which have arisen in an unexpected quarter, rendered it imperative upon me to revise the subject, and to obtain the opinions of the following professional gentlemen thereon, viz. Mr. Maudslay, Mr. Donkin, Mr. Bramah, Mr. Millington, Mr. Galloway, Mr. Walker, Mr. Brunel, and Mr. Tredgold.

"It would be presumptuous in me to affirm, or to eulogize, the scientific knowledge, or practical experience of these gentlemen; their capability is attested in public records, and legislative enactments have been founded on their professional evidence. Copies of their opinions on the present subject are subjoined; and I am authorised to state, that they are ready to appear personally in explanation.

"These testimonials were tendered to the Building Committee, but were not accepted, nor permitted to be read. It was, however, suggested that it might not be improper for me to prepare an argumentative defence, or to produce a design for another roof. Both were done, and the plans were again submitted to the Board of Works. Whereupon a second Report, in which no mention whatever is made of my defensive explanation, condemns the second roof as being but a small comparative improvement on the first, and proceeds to unfavourable comment, on the manner in which the timbers of the Gallery are fixed. But the testimonials annexed, I respectfully contend, afford reasonable ground to presume that the first roof may possibly have been erroneously objected to; and it is admitted by the second Report itself, that the second roof is an improvement on the first.

"The mode in which the Galleries are proposed to be fixed into the walls and buttresses, is similar

\* Is not the double office, of censorial, and acting Architect, an anomalous combination?

"in principle to that already approved in the Churches of Ashton, Bordesley, and Portsea, (I speak with certainty on this point, because I have prepared all the drawings for those buildings, for the individual who superintends their erection) and a model of my second roof has recently sustained a weight, double of that which, at the same time, destroyed a similar model of the approved roofs of those buildings!—I am prepared to repeat the experiment before your Building Committee, if it be their pleasure to witness it.

"Finally, with respect to the alleged insufficiency of the drawings, it can only be necessary to state, that your respectable Surveyor has repeatedly informed me, that working drawings would not be required, till specifically called for; while, on the other hand, it is now apparent, that nothing short of a complete set will be accepted by the Architects of the Board of Works!

"But, although I have been compelled by those principles, which the Almighty has implanted in the breast of every one, who is animated with feelings of conscious rectitude, thus firmly, but respectfully to defend my professional reputation, yet am I desirous to avoid saying more than may be absolutely indispensable. And I trust the whole disputed affair, will be viewed by the Board, as one of those singular points which sometimes occur, and upon which even the opinions of the greatest and wisest of men, are found to be divided. I therefore beg to say, that since I was informed of the last Report, I have proceeded, (but without departing from the already approved architectural appearance) to prepare a new constructive design, upon principles which, I believe, I have ascertained to be recognized by the architects of the Board of Works. These will be finished in about fourteen days, and I trust the equitable resolutions of his Majesty's Commissioners, will not be adverse to their reception.

"To conclude, the circumstances which have attended the progress of my plans before the Board, have been so unexpected, that I think it, at length, incumbent upon me on the avowed principles of self-preservation, and before definitive proceedings are taken, to state that I have, some months back, been indirectly threatened, with the ultimate abrogation of the appointments, under which I have had the honour to act, unless I would consent to the previous sacrifice, of one half the usual professional Commission to accrue therefrom. This I have indignantly refused; and although I feel it would be impossible, for one instant to suppose, that such a proposal could be countenanced, if known, yet am I not without reasonable grounds of apprehension, that undue means might be covertly resorted to, to effect, or promote that object; should any apparent obliquity of circumstances seem to present a favourable opportunity.

"I have the honour to be,  
"My Lords and Gentlemen,  
"Your very obedient Servant,  
"(Signed) C. A. BUSBY."

"18, London Street,  
"Fitzroy Square."  
The consideration of the preceding letter was deferred till the 27th of November, 1821, when I attended to give an explanation whatever, that might seem to be required; but received an intimation from the Secretary, that my presence was superfluous. On the 13th of December, (two days being unavoidably lost in the conveyance) the following letter from the Vicar of Leeds, and a similar communication from Oldham, gave me the first intelligence of my dismissal, although the definitive resolution of the Board, had been taken on the 27th of November, when, being on the spot, it might have been stated to me by the Secretary. As it was, the information came too late for me to adopt any available explanatory measures, at Leeds, or Oldham. Both the Local Committees, having already proceeded, upon the reasonable presumption, that I being on the spot, had of course been duly apprised of the resolution adopted by the Board; and probably accusing me of inattention, on the supposition that I had neglected to commune with them, on a subject of so much importance to themselves, and me.

"Sir, Vicarage, Leeds, Dec. 11th 1821.  
"In consequence of an intimation from the Secretary, to the Commissioners in London, for building new Churches, that the Board of Works have finally rejected your Plans, it was unanimously resolved, at a Meeting of our Committee, holden yesterday, that your future services as their Architect for building a new Church, at Leeds, would be dispensed with. It is with regret, that as Chairman of the Committee, I make the communication, and remain,  
"Your's respectfully,  
"To Mr. Busby. (Signed) R. FAWCETT."

The plans, consisting of sixteen highly finished, and elaborate drawings, together with the specifications, and estimates, have been subsequently returned to me, by direction of the Board; each of them disfigured with a very conspicuous inscription, of which the following are copies. The inscriptions on the drawings say—

"Not approved of by His Majesty's Commissioners for Building New Churches."  
"(Signed) Wm. Richardson, Clerk."

"The Plans not approved of."  
"(Signed) Wm. Richardson, Clerk."

It is necessary to add, that all my endeavours to procure a copy of the second Report, made by Messrs. Nash and Smirke, on my plans, have failed; and that the copy of the first Report, already given, was obtained, merely, by a fortunate coincidence of accidental circumstances. The following letters, (both bearing the same date), in answer to my applications addressed to the Board in London, and to the Local Committee at Leeds, will shew that each Party has referred me to the other, for information of which both are in possession, but neither is willing to impart. I cannot unravel this singular anomaly.

"Sir, Doctors Commons, January 10th, 1822.  
"I have laid before His Majesty's Commissioners for building new Churches, your letter of the 13th ultimo, and am directed to acquaint you, that your application for a Copy of the Report of the

\* This I did to avoid any possible imputation of pertinacity.  
† The concluding part of the above communication, has induced the Board to institute an inquiry into the conduct of an individual, who has enjoyed their highest confidence. But, as the proceedings of the person alluded to, have not been considered by the Board, to have any connection with the question at issue, respecting my plans, I have excluded all further particulars from the present publication. A course I conceived to be both proper and necessary, because the inquiry is now going on. In order to prevent any possible misapprehension, I think it necessary to say, that the name of the person in question does not appear in any part of this paper.  
‡ A proof that no objection had been made to the Specifications or Estimates.

"Architects attached to the Office of Works, with respect to your plans for one of the Churches proposed to be built at Leeds, and the Church at Oldham, should be made to the Local Committees at those places. I return herewith the Testimonials† which you sent some time since to the Board.

"I am, Sir, your very obedient Servant,  
"(Signed) GEORGE JENNER, Secretary.  
"Mr. C. A. Busby."

"Sir, Vicarage, Leeds, Jan. 10th 1822.  
"The Committee at Leeds, in signifying to you by Letter, your dismissal from the Office of Architect, and in advertizing for fresh plans, only complied with the directions of His Majesty's Commissioners, given by their Secretary in the following communication, dated November 30th, 1821. I am directed to acquaint you that, in consequence of the repeated objections, which have been made to the Plans (of Mr. Busby), the Board are under the necessity of rejecting them, you are therefore requested to obtain plans from some other Architect. The foregoing is the authority upon which we have proceeded. The GROUNDS upon which it was made, are with the Commissioners in London, to whom of course you must look, and on whom, alone, you can with any propriety call for an explanation.  
"I remain very respectfully your's  
"Mr. Busby. (Signed) R. FAWCETT."

Affairs being thus brought to a crisis, I determined to consult my professional friends, collectively, on the course most proper to be pursued. And this, not only with a view to shew them a mark of respect, I conceived to be most justly due; but that, aided by their united council, I might proceed with the greater confidence, and propriety. A meeting accordingly took place, at the Salopian Coffee House, on Friday, the 23th of December, 1821. A full explanation of all the circumstances of the case, was laid before the five Gentlemen, who did me the favour to attend, and I received their unanimous admonition to publish the whole, without delay, as a measure now rendered indispensable to my professional character, and to state in my publication, that the course that I had taken, was in pursuance of their united recommendation. It was also suggested, that, as a previous step, it might be expedient to apprise Messrs. Nash and Smirke of my intended measures, in order to give them a fair opportunity to arrange the matter, should they feel any disposition to do so. I determined to be guided by the advice of the meeting, and addressed the following letter, in duplicate, to Messrs. Nash and Smirke.

"Sir, London, December 31st, 1821.

"I feel it incumbent upon me to inform you, that I have been dismissed from two professional appointments under His Majesty's Commissioners for building churches, in consequence of two successive Reports, which have proceeded from yourself, and Mr. Smirke, relative to two roofs proposed in some plans of mine, for the churches intended to be built at Leeds and Oldham.

"The roofs objected to in the first Report, were not adopted upon slight grounds; I believed, and (with every possible deference to your opinion) still believe them to be amply sufficient for their intended purposes; while those, to which the second Report has reference, are admitted, by the second Report itself, to be superior to the first.  
"But previously to preparing designs for the second roof, (which I did without retracting the diagrams of the first) I took occasion to obtain the individual opinions of Mr. Donkin, Mr. Walker, Mr. Galloway, Mr. Brunel, Mr. Millington, Mr. Maudslay, Mr. Bramah, and Mr. Tredgold, (gentlemen of whose scientific and practical knowledge you must be well informed) relative to the sufficiency of the iron roofs then rejected, but without informing them from whence objections had emanated. The annexed copies of their letters to me on the subject, will prove the remarkable coincidence of eight distinct opinions, with each other, and with mine.

"Having been dismissed by the Board, in consequence of your second Report, I invited a meeting of the gentlemen who had already obliged me with their separate opinions, in order to confer with them on the course most proper to pursue. A full explanation of every circumstance relative to the case was laid before the five gentlemen who attended, and I received their unanimous admonition to publish the whole, including the enclosed documents, with the least possible delay.

"Thus fortified, you must suppose Sir, that I cannot tamely submit to the injury my pecuniary interests have already suffered through the loss of two valuable appointments, and which a judgment, so unqualified, as that you have pronounced, most inevitably occasion to my future prospects, if not explained, reversed, or refuted.

"But the respect which I entertain for every distinguished Member of our Profession, would not allow me to adopt any public measure in my defence, without previously affording you an opportunity—of which I am persuaded your own sense of justice will render you anxious to avail yourself—to revise your opinion. I am besides aware, that, among the multiplicity of plans submitted to you, it cannot always be in your power to afford strict attention to the merits of each, of which, indeed, I have a convincing proof in the fact, that your second Report on my plans objects to the manner in which the timbers of the gallery are proposed to be fixed into the walls, while the same construction has already been approved in the Reports upon the church at Bordesley, and in those of Portsea and Ashton. Indeed, I fell convinced that, had I been favored with an opportunity of explaining my drawings to you, and Mr. Smirke, personally, some of your objections would have been removed: it is to request that you and Mr. Smirke will yet oblige me with an interview, that I have now the honor to address you; and should I not be successful in the principal object, I may at least flatter myself with the hope that I could so fully convince you of my Professional competency, as to procure your cordial recommendation of my re-appointment by the Board; a recommendation of the success of which there can be no doubt.

"Permit me to add, that the next meeting of the Board will take place on the 8th of January. It only remains for to observe, that any steps you may feel inclined to adopt, in consequence of the

† The testimonials to which Mr. Jenner alludes, were sent in pursuance of the usual request of the Board. They related to my general professional responsibility. See Postscript.

‡ These grounds, (i. e. the Report in question), were also with Mr. Fawcett. And in Mr. Jenner's letter, dated, the 30th. November, 1821, immediately preceded the quotation, so carefully given by the Reverend Vicar!  
§ The eight Gentlemen, whose testimonials are already given

"suggestions contained in this communication, will be useless to me, unless completed before that day.

"I have the honor to be, Sir,  
"your very obedient servant,  
"(Signed) C. A. BUSBY."

"John Nash, Esq. Dover Street.  
"Robert Smirke, Esq. Stratford Place."

The following are the separate replies of Messrs. Nash and Smirke to the above communication.

"Isle of Wight, January 2d, 1822.

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 31st of last month, and its inclosures, and to express my regret that what it has been my very duty to do, in a very unpleasant official situation, should have been injurious to you. Unknown as you are to me, you cannot for a moment believe that I could be actuated by any motive personal to you. Be assured that your letter was duly considered before the second Report was sent. I have also read the letters of the very respectable gentlemen which your letter to me incloses, but if you wish them to be considered in our official capacity, it can only be on a reference of them by the Church Commissioners to the Surveyor-General.  
"Believe me to be, Sir,  
"your very obedient servant,  
"C. A. Busby, Esq. (Signed) JOHN NASH."

"Brighton, January 6th 1822.

"I have received your letter of the 31st of last month. Being detained here by the effects of a painful indisposition, I can answer your letter only by expressing my sincere regret that you should have lost any professional employment, in consequence of opinions, which, as one of the architects of the Office of Works, I am required to give upon the designs offered to his Majesty's Commissioners for new Churches; a part of my duty, which I assure you, is very reluctantly performed.

"I do not recollect the particular nature of any objection made by me to your designs, and my judgment in regard to them may have been wrong; but it certainly was not, as you believe, hastily formed; for I trust I should on no occasion be so forgetful of the respect due to the exertions of every member of our profession, nor so inattentive in the discharge of an important public duty, as to offer a hasty and inconsiderate opinion upon the subjects referred to me.

"I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,  
"(Signed) ROBERT SMIRKE."  
"C. A. Busby, Esq."

The preceding letters of Mr. Nash and Mr. Smirke were answered in the following terms:

"Sir, London-Street, Fitzroy Square, Jan. 4. 1822.

"I have to acknowledge your letter of the 2d instant, and beg you will allow me to say that, however I may dissent from your expressed opinion upon my roofs, I have never presumed to attribute the reports made by yourself and Mr. Smirke, upon my plans, to any thing like a personal feeling.

"I am happy to observe your candid admission of the respectability of the eight opinions I have handed to you: but, as you have proceeded to state, that a reconsideration of the case by yourself, and Mr. Smirke, can only take place on reference for that purpose, by the Church Commissioners, it is necessary for me to inform you that, in consequence of the reports in question, the Board, relying implicitly on their presumed accuracy, have refused to enter upon the consideration of such documents, at my solicitation; and have taken definitive measures. Under these circumstances, I submit that, it would be extremely indecorous in me, individually, to make any further application.

"But you will readily perceive that, although it is now impossible for me, individually, to agitate the question again before the Board, which has been set at rest on the grounds above-mentioned, yet, if the eight letters I have communicated to you, from professional gentlemen of the first respectability, who are ready to support their opinions in the most public manner, if necessary, should induce you to contemplate the expediency of a re-consideration of the case, I beg respectfully to suggest that a communication from yourself to the Board, at their meeting, on Tuesday next, expressive of such inclination, could not fail to meet with immediate assent. Nor could I feel the smallest objection to a statement that my application resulted from what had passed between yourself and me.

"I trust you will not attribute the firm stand, I am compelled to make, for all that is sacred, or estimable, in professional character, to any thing like a feeling of pertinacity. Had your first report been couched in terms conveying any clue to the peculiar sort of construction, that was likely to meet your ideas, I should have availed myself of every endeavour to meet them implicitly: and in the absence of such intimation, I used the best means in my power, to suggest such a mode of construction, as should bear the test of criticism.

"It may be proper to inform you that, in consequence of what has already passed, the local committees at Leeds and Oldham, have been directed to procure plans from some other architect; and have actually proceeded, (though not yet conclusively) upon that intimation: you will therefore perceive the necessity of some communication from yourself to the Board, on Tuesday next, to procure a postponement, unless it be your final determination to abide by the reports already made upon my plans.

"In the event of acceding to my proposition, I shall be most happy to afford you any further information in my power on your return to Town.  
"I shall beg to be favoured with your reply;  
"and have the honor to be, Sir,  
"Your very obedient servant,  
"John Nash, Esq. (Signed) C. A. BUSBY."

"London-Street, Fitzroy-Square, Jan. 7th, 1822.

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, and am much concerned for the unfortunate cause of your prolonged stay at Brighton.

"The first report upon my plans, which appears to have escaped your remembrance, was made early in September, 1821, and was expressed in these words: 'Oldham; the drawings of this Church do not describe the intended construction sufficiently to enable us to report upon the whole of it, but the roof, according to a draw-

"Had I accused Mr. Nash of personality?—Does Mr. Nash forget our prolonged discussions relative to the Regents Canal-locks, in which the late Earl Stanhope took so conspicuous a part?