and established, but stately edifices were erected; such as Pantheons, Theatres, Temples, Domes, Arcades, Porticoes, and Bridges, covered with spacious galleries, which were supported by superb columns of brass, of the Ionic order, and various other erections of the most magnificent and costly kind, which prove that expense was not a consideration in those days. It also appeared at this time, that there existed a considerable emulation among the professors of the Arts, by which great improvements were made. But from that period, down to this time, it is to be lamented that a growing depraved taste in the execution of civil Architecture has been too manifest; and at no period was it ever more conspicuous than the present. For though it may not be strictly just to ascribe perfection wholly to the ancients above alluded to, yet it must be acknowledged, in common justice to truth, that the fundamental laws of Architecture, I mean strength, symmetry, and true elegance, which they chastely handed down to us, have been, in many instances, bartered for weakness, disproportion and frivolousness, by unskilful pretenders to science, who have intruded themselves on the public. Hence we witness, in cities making no small pretensions to pre-eminence, huge costly