Arising from the rapid decay of the material, and from the effects of shrinking and vibrations upon the joints of the frames. Thus we see that if the structure is to be a permanent one, it would be cheaper to build it of more durable material such as stone or iron.

Iron is gradually replacing timber in framed structures, as shown by the absence of timber in important structures throughout Europe. This is due to the fact that iron is independent of weather conditions and can withstand greater loads than timber.