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ancient architects augmented the number of their columns; and, that whenever elegance was necessary, recourse was had to columns: What is there in columns which entitles them to this distinction? or are all equally elegant?

There seems, I think, little reason to doubt that trees afforded the first supports to buildings of considerable size; they were most probably inserted into the walls, to sustain either an upper story, or a beam of considerable weight, on which the roof rested. The regularity and strength which they contributed, brought them into use; and by progressive improvements, they increased in importance and ornament.

We have remaining in some edifices, very remarkable indications, that the ancient architects, in erecting stone buildings, did little more than substitute one material for another; for they have imitated very closely the courses and appearances of those beams of wood, which were necessary to be laid from part to part, for additional support. It is true, they have ornamented these marbles, but still they retain the appearance we have mentioned; and had we now extant the original attempts at this substitution, it is probable, it would be yet more evident and explicit. This is very apparent in certain parts of the orders.

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