

C H A P. V.

Of Pedestals. Of the Ionic Base and Column. Of the Capital. Of the Entablature. Of the Volute at large. Of the Flutings and Base at large. Of Fluted Pilasters. Of the Ionic Portal. Of the Ionic Portico, with Pedestals.

THE use of the basement (stereobates) was said in the last chapter to raise the floor of a building above the level of the ground, and to place thereon the shafts of the columns; but the origin of a pedestal (*(a)* stylobates) raised above the floor, seems to be owing to the necessity of using columns which turned out too short for the intended work, or that the intervals between two pedestals (*(b)*) along the sides of the building might serve as a podium, a parapet or balustrade having the same mouldings as the pedestals, at top and bottom; but for the portal in the front of the building, the pedestals were insulated, to admit of a free passage between the intercolumniations. The height of the pedestal considered as a parapet can have no relative proportion to the column it bears, because the height of a parapet is unalterably fixed from three feet to four at most, and this may equally serve a column of ten feet, or one of thirty feet in height. A pedestal is no part of an order, nevertheless, the members are to be characterized according to the column it bears.

Some of the moderns have launched into a depravity of making the pedestals excessive high; others have judged so ill as to place one pedestal upon another, that the columns seem to be hoisted upon stilts, against all the rules of solidity and beauty.

The word *Scamillus*, signifies properly a little seat, or a footstool; what can resemble more to either of these, than that part of the continued pedestal that breaks forward under every column? and as the number of columns in the sides of the periptere was unequal, so it was necessary to hint that these stools (*scamilli*) upon which the columns were to be raised, must be in odd numbers (*impares*) likewise. And if the projectures of all these scamilli were set off in a right line (*ad libellam*), it made the whole side of the stylobates appear (*alveolatus*) channelled out or indented by regular intervals.

P L A T E VIII.

The figure marked H. represents the profile of an Ionic pedestal; the upper moulding thereof is a plinth, because the lower moulding of the base hereafter described is a torus; all the other mouldings of this pedestal are adapted with a suitable simplicity.

The Ionic order of Vitruvius, as delivered down to us by his editors, is indeed very simple, but, at the same time, very poor, from the littleness of all its parts: what is here offered, is from the ruined temple on the Ilyssus at Athens; it is as elegant as plain, from the simplicity

(a) Sin autem circa sedem extribus lateribus podium faciendum erit, ad id constituatur uti quadras, spiras, trumi, coronas, Iyfis ad ipsum stylobatam, qui erit sub columnæ spiris, conveniant. — (b) Stylobatam ita oportet ex-quari uti habeat per medium adjectionem per scamillos impares. Si enim ad libellam dirigeretur alveolatus oculo videbitur. Hoc autem uti scamilli ad id convenienter fiant, item in extremo libro forma & demonstratio, erit descriptæ. His perfectis in suis locis spiræ collocentur, &c. Lib. III. c. 3.

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