



St. Mary



St. John

Letter of Consternation

To The Editor

Sir

It is well known that "old birds are not usually caught with chaff." And I must say that the great intelligence of "A native of St. Mary's parish," who has just made a tour through some of the counties of England, in which his own fondness for ecclesiastical buildings and relics led him to visit as many of them as lay in his way, besides entering the fifty churches in Westminster and several others in the metropolis" – has not produced in the opinion of myself, or of any five of the inhabitants of our parish, any thing but chaff. As "A Native" appears to have been absent for many years, it may be necessary to inform him, that the present defective state of St. Mary's church, is not to be attributed to the Feoffee, and we are much obliged to him for the information that "the gin sellers and handlers of a Popish age" are his aversion. "I condemn the decorations of St. John's chancell!", he exclaims – "I object to the colours of that chancell!" And for what reason? Why, because foremost it is not in harmony with the other parts of the internal structure. Had this been the case, "it would be unacceptable," he says. So according to this logic he would have the whole church tinsel and bauble. But something by his good taste consistency I will merely observe - that if he remembers what St. Mary's and St. John's churches were before his many years of absents, and previous to the "improvements" that have been made I think that he will not venture to say, that there was then any appearance of decay, mildew, or woodlice, on the contrary, there was good old wainscoting, with every continence and accommodation for the poor. But not withstanding all that has been said and done if a proper plan for the restoration of St. Mary's church, with the amount of the estimated expense – a fixed price and certain expense – be laid before the Feoffee – I am lead to believe that they would do all in their power to render it in every respect eligibly as a Protestant place of worship, according to the rules and regulations of the church of England.

I now take my farewell of a native; and remain, Mr. Editor,
yours , &c.
An Old Feoffee.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 20 May 1847