

The principal feature in Roman architecture was the *arch*, used both for structural and decorative purposes. The application of the arch gave to the structures in which it was used a character essentially different from those of Greece, and contained the germ of the peculiar architecture of the Christian or Mediæval era. Com-



fig. 170.

paring a Grecian temple with the most finished and characteristic of the Roman structures — the Coliseum — while admiring the vastness and the magnificence of the Roman, we find it wanting in the unity and completeness of design of the Grecian erection. In the Grecian temple, its distinctive peculiarities are seen at a glance; and such is the unity of the