

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE
NEWCATHEDRAL AT CORK.

THE foundation-stone of the new cathedral at Cork, which is to replace the present church of St. Finn Barr, now insufficient for the congregation, was laid on Thursday week, with Masonic honours, by the night Rev. Dr. Gregg, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross. A numerous company, among whom were the Earl of Bandon, the Earl of Bantry, and other persons of rank and influence in the county of Cork, with Dean Magee, Archdeacon Kyle, and many of the clergy, had assembled on this occasion. About 400 members of the Masonic body, wearing the insignia of their order, were also present, headed by Mr. G. Chatterton, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Munster. A procession, led by the Dean and Chapter, advanced from the old church to meet the Bishop, on his arrival, and escorted him, attended by his Chancellor and Chaplain, to the site of the new building. Here the Bishop, with the Dean and Chapter, the churchwardens, some of the building committee, and principal Masons, ascended the platform. A hymn was sung by the choir, some versicles were recited by the clergy and people alternately, and the collect of St. Simon and St. Jude was read, followed by a special prayer for the success of the undertaking. The Earl of Bandon, as chairman of the building committee, then addressed the Bishop, with a brief explanation of their design, and requested him to lay the first stone of an edifice, which they trusted would be an ornament to the United Church of England and Ireland and to the city of Cork. Dean Magee, on behalf of the cathedral clergy, supported this request. His Lordship having signified his consent, they passed along the gangway to the spot where the stone was to be laid. A silver trowel was presented to the Bishop, who applied it to the mortar, while the stone, which was suspended over the site, was gradually let down to its resting-place, and the usual ceremony having been gone through it was declared properly set, while a hymn was chanted by the choir. Mr. G. Chatterton, the Deputy Grand Master, then came forward, on the part of the Masonic order, and poured an offering of cam, wine, and oil upon the stone, while the following invocation was pronounced by the Provincial Grand Chaplain:—"May the Great Architect of the Universe enable us successfully to canyon and finish this work! may He protect the workmen from danger and accident, and long preserve the structure from decay! and may He grant us all our needed supply—the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment, and the oil of joy! Amen. So be it." This was responded to by all the brethren around. The choir and congregation sang the Hundredth Psalm, after which the Bishop and procession returned to the platform. The Bishop then spoke at some length to the assembled people, commending the design of those who had undertaken there to raise a grand and beautiful structure for the worship of God. He reminded them, at the same time, that a considerable sum was yet needed to provide for the cost of the building; and, as the Dean held the

subscription list, many of the company desired their names to be put down for various sums, amounting to nearly £3000. Among these donations was one of £1000 from the Rev. T. G. Speller, of Dublin. The architect of the proposed building is Mr. Burgess. The design is in the Gothic style of the thirteenth century. The ground-plan consists of a nave and chancel, with side aisles and a circular aisle at the eastern end, and there will be three towers of considerable elevation. An elaborately-wrought archway and porch will form the western entrance, surmounted by a stained-glass window. The contractor is Mr. Robert Walker.

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