

CORK CATHEDRAL.

The Cathedral Church of St. Finn Barr, which is the Protestant Episcopalian head-quarters of the diocese of Cork, has not much appearance of architectural antiquity. It was mainly rebuilt between the years 1725 and 1735; and for defraying the expense a duty of one shilling per ton was imposed by Act on all coal and culm imported into Cork for fifteen years. . The tower only is supposed to be part of the ancient building, erected by Gilla Aeda O'Mugin, in the twelfth century. It is surmounted by a lofty octangular spire of hewn stone, under which is the principal entrance; to the south is the chapter hall, where the consistorial court is held; to the north is the vestry-room; the choir is lighted by a fine Venetian window. The Bishop's throne of black Irish oak, and the prebendal stalls, are handsomely finished, and well arranged. There is a beautiful monument of white marble, to the memory of Chief Baron Tracton, whose body is interred in this cathedral, having been transferred from St. Nicholas' Church. The pointed doorway is recessed, and richly moulded; consisting of an inner and an outer arch, ornamented with clustered columns in relief. The interior, 97 ft. by 57 ft., has a richly panelled ceiling which rests upon ranges of Ionic pillars of scagliola; the north and south galleries are supported by Doric columns. The foundation of the See of Cork is generally ascribed to St. Barr or Finbarr, in the early part of the seventh century. His relics, inclosed in a silver shrine, were carried away from the cathedral, in 1089, by Dermot, the son of Turlough O'Brian. The diocese includes the county of Cork, extending seventy-four miles in length and sixteen miles in breadth. The cathedral chapter formerly consisted of a dean, precentor, chancellor, treasurer, archdeacon, and the twelve prebendaries of Kilbrogan, Kilbritain; Killaspigmullane, Cahirlog, Liscleary, Killanully, Inniskenny, Kilmaglory, Holy Trinity, St. Michael, Desertmore, and Dromdaleague.

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