

NEW CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL, CORK.

HAVING already given an outline of the plan on which the cathedral is to be built, we (*Examiner*) propose to offer a few details which suggest themselves on an inspection of the drawings. And first, we may remark, that the drawings themselves are exceedingly beautiful, and cannot fail to afford the utmost gratification to all who have a taste for art, whether pictorial or architectural. The perspective views of the exterior and interior are very fine, and some of the sectional drawings are remarkable for precision and beauty of detail.

The cathedral, as designed in these sketches, will be a noble building, and worthy of a great effort on the part of the people of Cork. It will possess in a striking degree that dignity which is the essence of such a structure. The design is at once lofty, massive, elegant, and full of that variety which is a characteristic of Gothic, but which above all others most properly marks a building of cathedral proportions. The transept will cross the nave at an equal elevation, the ridge of both being 80 ft. This transept will have a length of 114 ft., while from east to west there will be no less than 237 ft. within the walls. The gables of the transept will be of an exceedingly rich character. That at the south side will have a deeply-moulded porch, with a carved tympanum, the triangle above the archway being perforated, which will give to this part a peculiarly ornate appearance. Looking from before this porch there will be seen at either side portions of an exterior which cannot fail to have a very grand effect. Eastward the choir will be seen flanked at either side with double aisles, which within constitute chapels, this part being linked to the transept by a flying buttress. Below, square and solidly-built sacristies give an aspect of security to the slighter superstructure. Westwards the view is carried past the south aisle and clerestory, and terminates in the tower, which now stands, to the top of the parapet, 157 ft., and when crowned with a spire will rise to 280 ft.

Entering by the transept door the cathedral cannot fail to present a most striking *coup d'oeil*. Glancing at the perspective drawing one not acquainted with its object would be inclined to ask, "Of what magnificent continental church is that a portion?" And we have no doubt that the realization will prove singularly effective, for there will be presented at once to sight, through a rich confusion of pillars, no less than five altars, the high altar standing in the centre, the others forming the termination of those double aisles of which we have spoken as running alongside or forming part of the choir. Advancing to where a full-length view of the church can be had the appearance cannot fail to be striking. A clear view from end to end of a building, so long, so lofty, and lit at either extreme by large and handsome traceried windows, will at once convey the idea of vastness. Nor will that of beauty be wanting when the details are examined. Above a long arcade resting on round stone columns, about which will be clustered parasitical columns of marble, will rise an exceedingly graceful triforium, and over its arches the clerestory windows, thus forming the three storeys which competent critics say are most harmonious. The skin of the nave roof will be of open woodwork so arranged as to be suitable for coloured decoration. The aisles will have a groined roof of stone. Beyond the crossing or transept, the choir will differ somewhat from the nave. As the floor will be raised by a series of gradations so as to give due elevation to the altar, it was thought advisable to cut off the triforium in this part and let the main arcade have the benefit of the greatest possible height. The idea has been a very happy one, and is calculated to enhance

very much the stateliness of this part of the church. Without entering into minutiae we may state, that this part, as is natural, is more profusely decorated than the body of the church, but there is no departure from the style in which the whole plan has been conceived. This is the Geometric, which is just a stage earlier than the Perpendicular and perhaps one of the purest periods of Decorated Gothic.

To those of our readers who are not conversant with figures as represented in stone, we may say that the dimensions we have spoken of would make the Cathedral of Cork equal in size to St. Patrick's, in Dublin. The design is one which reflects the highest credit on the skill and originality of Sir J. Benson. When completed, it will prove to the city of Cork, not merely an ornament in the ordinary sense of the word, but a something which will enable Cork people to boast that they possess the finest ecclesiastical structure in Ireland.

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