

Some ecclesiastical buildings of an imposing and ornate character are in course of erection in Cork. In a recent number of the local Examiner there appeared a description of them, and to it we are indebted for the greater part of the notes given below. En passant, we may remark, that we are glad to find the subject treated by our contemporary in a different style from that usually adopted by newspaper writers when describing architectural works. "We congratulate our friends in the" beautiful citie" on those fresh proofs of their spirit, and hope that others may be stimulated to "go and do likewise."

Illustrations of buildings, both in the city of Cork and its vicinity, have appeared in the IRISH BUILDER from time to time. We shall be glad, on receipt of drawings or photographs, to illustrate others.

*St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral.*—The reconstruction of St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral will properly be a leading feature in our notice. While nearly every city in Ireland could boast a cathedral more or less deserving the appellation, Cork diocese has been content with an edifice under that designation, worthy only—in external appearance at least—of a country parish. No doubt, of late years the splendid square tower of the cathedral has risen in prominent beauty on the northern hill; but its erection tended to make the meanness of the church building more conspicuous, and the necessity for replacing the latter with a more suitable structure become more urgent. Sir John Benson has prepared the new design, a brief general idea of which we propose to convey. The architectural style adopted is the Geometrical or that in use in the thirteenth century. By the proposed plan, the church will be enlarged to double its present size, and so altered and embellished as to render it one of the finest specimens of ecclesiastical architecture in the kingdom. The present cathedral is 145 ft. long within the walls, and it is intended to add to the east end, nave, choir, and chancel with four side chapels, and transepts with aisles; which will increase the length of the building to a total of 236 ft. in the clear, or a length over all, including the tower, of about 280 ft. The width will be 116 ft. 6 in. across the transepts, and 62 ft. 6 in. across the nave and aisles. There will also be added a clerestory, which will increase the height of the building to 79 ft. from floor line to ridge of roof, the height to the cornice under parapets being 56 ft. The ceilings will be richly groined. The pillars dividing the nave from the aisles will be of Portland stone, with red marble detached shafts; and those separating the chancel from the side chapels will be of Cork red marble with black marble shafts. The small shafts of the windows and clerestory will be composed of Galway black and green, and Cork red, marbles. The inter. section of the nave and transepts will be supported by handsome piers, ornamented with sculptured figures, supported on projecting corbels and standing under rich canopies. The upper portions of these piers, which are square, will have neat marble shafts, carried on corbels, to receive the vaulting of the arches. It is intended that the whole of the east end, including the side chapels and choir, shall be vaulted in masonry. Numerous windows of great beauty will illuminate the building, and in the preparation of the design the extensive employment of stained glass at a future period is contemplated. Internally the walls will be lined and dressed with Bath stone and marble. The decorations of the choir, chancel, and side chapels will be rich and elegant; and the whole interior will partake of all the characteristics of breadth and loftiness, massiveness and beauty of construction' and elegant profusion of ornament properly belonging to a great cathedral.

The external outline of the building will be proportionately grand. To the side walls of the present structure will be added handsome buttresses and parapets crowned with graceful minarets, and the windows will be rearranged in accordance with the style of the intended extensions. For the present southwestern porch will be substituted a larger and more elegant one, that will project beyond the line of the present railings, which are to be removed. The eastern end of the church will be square, having a large five-light window of great beauty. In the southern transept will be placed one of the principal doors of the cathedral, deeply recessed and lined on either side with marble shafts. This doorway is one of the grandest features in a very splendid design. Its external width will be 23 ft., and where the doors hinge, 10 ft. 6 in. Over the door is carried a gable, the upper part of which, reaching to the springing of the cathedral roof, will be pierced by a large rose window, very elaborately designed. The ends of the nave and the choir and transepts are to be supported by bold buttresses crowned with minarets, finished with carved crockets. These buttresses give a very fine effect to the edifice. The eastern end will show five gables, one in the centre for each choir, and one for each of the four chapels—the summit of each gable carrying a cross. In the angles of the building formed by the chancel and transepts will be erected extensive sacristies, &c., in keeping with the general design. Owing to the inclination of the ground in that direction, the building at the eastern end will be 100 ft. high. The dressings of the windows, buttresses, cornices, parapets, minarets, &c., and the external facing of the wall, will be composed principally of finely-dressed white limestone, the other portions of the walls being of the red stone of the district, carefully chiselled. To complete the cathedral, a spire will be added to the handsome western tower, as originally intended; and a peal of bells will answer back in melodious thunder the famous chimes of Shandon. Such is some general idea of this singularly fine conception of the eminent architect. A portion of the work, including the re-building of the buttresses, re-arrangement of the windows, and addition of the parapet and minarets to the southern aisle of the nave, has already been commenced. Mr. Richard Evans, Unionquay, is the contractor.

*St. Finn Barre's Protestant Cathedral.*—As an architectural work we gladly recognise the new cathedral as an important addition to our numerous beautiful edifices. We shall give a cursory glance at the present advanced condition of the structure. All the heavy work below the eaves line, and some above it, have now been executed. Entering by the old western gate of the churchyard, the first impression of the visitor is one of wonder and admiration at the extraordinary massiveness and solid grandeur of the pile. The whole exterior of the church is faced with neatly cut blocks of grey limestone, from which it derives an appearance of great strength. Three splendid Gothic doorways in the western end are among the noblest features in the work. The central one is especially grand, being deeply recessed and richly moulded, of great external width, the interior of the sides lined with clusters of neat shafts, surmounted with heavy capitals, hereafter to be elaborately carved. Two square-headed doors fill the interior of the arch, and it is surmounted by a gable. The aisle doorways are similar, only being smaller. Over the chief entrance is a magnificent rose window of great size and beauty. The north and south elevations of the building are very fine, though here, as in nearly every part of the edifice, its excessive ponderosity in some degree mars the grandeur of the effect. The five neatly-moulded windows of the aisles are very handsome, their heads having just sufficient of the Pointed style to prevent their being absolutely semicircular.

Massive buttresses occupy the intervals between the windows, agreeably breaking the smooth hard face of the walls. The clerestory gives loftiness and dignity to buildings, its windows corresponding in style to those in the naves, and both roofs are supported at their respective eaves on bold square corbels, which break the uniformity of the line pleasantly. The transepts jut out nobly from the main structure, their buttresses ascending even to the eaves of the high-pitched roof, and besides a tier of windows like those of the aisles, display in the gable of each a handsome circular foliated window, with pointed hood, beautifully moulded. In the apsidal termination of the church there is the same uniformity of window, buttress, and moulding which prevails throughout. The interior, even more than the exterior, conveys the idea that the architect aimed at great massiveness and solemn grandeur rather than mere beauty, or the accommodation of large congregations. Resembling Marlborough-street Cathedral, Dublin, in internal arrangement, it may be popularly described as a church within a church, the nave and choir being embraced by the side aisles and chapels, which have vaulted roofs. Great pillars of white Mansfield stone, with heavy capitals, supporting splendid pointed arches, separate the nave and the aisles; the intersection of nave and transepts is carried by huge, square piers of the same material, the angles neatly moulded. The choir is enclosed by handsome pillars of Cork red marble; and the latter material is also employed with good effect in the shafts supporting three tiers of white sandstone arches, which decorate the interior of the clerestory. Externally, it should have been stated, the windows are separated and relieved by limestone shafts. On the interior there are shafts of white sandstone to correspond, and deep hoods of the same material to the windows. These are the chief characteristics of the building as it, now appears. Every part of the work is massive and costly, and it is but fair to say that it seems to be executed in the very best manner. Whatever one may think as to beauty or elegance of design, there is not a doubt the new Cathedral of St. Finn Barre will possess all the greatness and solemnity of aspect befitting such an edifice. The architect is Mr. Burges, of London; the contractors, Messrs. Cockburn, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin.

*St. Vincent's Presbytery.*—On the picturesque hill of Sunday's Well has risen within the past twelve months, in connection with the beautiful church of St. Vincent de Paul, a magnificent pile, almost equalling in grandeur of design the sacred edifice itself. It forms a very striking object in the rich landscape. The building is intended to include a residence for the Vincentian Fathers and a House of Retreat, with their appropriate appendages. Like the church, its style is Gothic, though of a somewhat earlier period. Messrs. Goldie and Child, the eminent architects of London, have treated the design with consummate skill and attention to splendid effect, at the same time that it is in no respect inappropriate or unsubstantial. Built at the west end of the church, the Presbytery will form two sides of a square, so as, with the church, to bound on the east, west, and south, a quadrangular court, whose northern boundary is the public road of Sunday's Well. The principal wing, lying east and west, is now complete, and the other has been commenced. At present we propose to give a general description of the building as it stands. Its principal face is towards the river, above which it rises to a height of several hundred feet, and its aspect is palatial, while possessing sufficient characteristics of its

religious purpose. In magnitude it is nearly as large as the church, beyond the southern line of which it is advanced a few feet, and contains four storeys. The front elevation is divided by massive buttresses between the lower windows, to correspond with the style of the church, and the windows with which it is pierced are very handsome, their frames and dressings, as well as the dressings of the buttresses, which are of limestone, contrasting well with the brown stone, which is the principal material of the walls. A very pretty feature in this elevation of the building is the circular turret at the south-west angle. At the base it is corbelled out from the main structure, an ingenious arrangement which imparts to it an airy and picturesque appearance. It thus forms a bow 15 ft. in diameter, and, rising above all other parts of the edifice, it is capped with a conical roof and vane. Entering the basement at the south-east angle, from the terrace in front, and passing to the lofty and spacious corridor, we encounter first the ambulatory, which is the chief apartment of the structure. This, like the other divisions of the same story, occupies the whole width of the wing, minus the corridor, and measures 80 ft. by 22 ft., and is 17 ft. high. It is lighted by six very large three-light tracery windows—the main feature in that aspect of the building; and will have a rich groined ceiling, the ribs resting on carved capitals, supported by shafts of Cork red marble. It is a singularly handsome and cheerful hall, while its splendid windows command a view of large extent and singular loveliness. From it we pass into the refectory, at the western-end of the wing. This is a smaller but lofty and handsome room, about 22 ft. square, and is lighted by four windows, two of them large and elegant, resembling those of the ambulatory. Adjoining are the kitchen, pantries, bath-rooms, &c. Returning to the foot of the great stone staircase (which, supported on pointed arches and red marble columns, and having a handsome window on each landing, gives access to the second and third storeys) we ascend to the first floor. Here we find ourselves on a level with the public road and court-yard, from which there is a suitable entrance. Looking into the court-yard is a wide and lofty corridor, illuminated by six handsome two-light windows, with rich heads filled with geometrical tracery. The first apartment on our left, being over the ambulatory, is a parlour, 22 ft. wide and 18 ft. long, and next is the library, 60 ft. by 22 ft. having five windows, second only in size and beauty to those in the basement. They are hooded on the exterior with two semicircular arches, supported at the middle of the window by a neatly turned shaft with square moulded capital. In all other respects, too, the library will only be second to the ambulatory. To it adjoin the community room and visitors parlour, corresponding to the refectory below. From the parlour is obtained the first access to the turret at the south-west angle, into which the room opens by a pointed arch. On this floor the turret is pierced by four beautiful windows, with traceried heads, and separated from each other by neat shafts. It would be difficult to imagine a more delightful little room than this. Projecting beyond the line of all other parts of the building, it has a clear view to the east, west and south, over a panorama which embraces every feature of winding river, green hill, busy city and picturesque suburban residence, sufficient to gratify the taste of the most fastidious lover of scenery. The third and fourth storeys are occupied by bed chambers—eight on each floor. These are splendid rooms, many of them as large as moderate-sized drawingrooms. To the finest of them, however, might be preferred the little eyrie in the top storey of the turret, the prospect from the windows of which dwarfs all that we have previously been recording. All the joinery of the building will be stained and varnished. The front line of the building, we have stated, projects beyond that of the church. Their adjacent ends overlap by some 20 ft.,

bringing the south aisle of the church into communication with the presbytery, from which it will be entered by a door in each storey. Besides the two entrances at the east end already mentioned, there will be another near the western angle of the building, almost under the turret. To bring the church and presbytery into contact, about 12 ft. will be added to the west end of the former. To accomplish this, the present unsightly western wall will be removed, and the intention of erecting a tower and spire there, as contemplated in the original design of the church, will be abandoned. Another and now more suitable site for a square bell-tower has, however, been chosen, and the foundations already laid at what will hereafter be the north-west angle of the church. We have seen the design, and it will be sufficient to say, in general terms, that it is in every respect worthy of the magnificent group of buildings of which it will be the crowning ornament. Gothic like the church, its base will be of brown, and its upper storey of grey limestone, pierced by richly-ornamented windows with Gothic heads; and the summit will be decorated with graceful minarets at the angles, and lesser ones in the middle of each face. At the angles of each storey there will also be figures on pedestals, under canopies. In the base of the tower will be a singularly elegant and ornate porch, and above the entrance-door a statue will be placed. Such is a general idea of the character of this fine architectural work. Even the slight sketch we have given of the plans and design must show how creditable they are to Messrs. Goldie and Child; and we have to add that the execution of the work has been entrusted to Mr. Barry M'Mullen, of Mary-street, to whose skill and enterprise as a builder many religious edifices in both city and county bear ample testimony. The grounds at the river side of the church and presbytery are now being laid out in a series of terraces that will form the most delightful pleasure grounds in the neighbourhood.

*St. Mary's Church, Pope's-quay.*—Amongst our most beautiful houses of worship is the Church of St. Mary, in connection with the Convent of the Dominican Fathers. The handsome portico added to it within late years confers upon it its chief exterior beauty. Interiorly it has always been one of the most admired of our churches. There are few things of the kind in the kingdom finer than its groined ceiling, supported by great Corinthian columns. One marked deficiency in the structure, however, has been the absence of any chancel or apsidal terminations worthy of the name, a consequence of which is that the sanctuary projects unduly into the choir. It has now been determined to perfect the symmetrical and cruciform shape of the church by adding an apsidal chancel of 40 ft., and also extending side chapels in same direction. The width of the chancel will be the same as that of the nave, 30 ft. The side chapels may be described as prolongations of the aisles, each 25 ft. long and 12 ft. wide, rows of columns similar to those about the altar separating them from the chancel, with which they will be parallel. A superb altar, in a style corresponding to the building, will form a grand central object in the beautiful interior. The internal decorations will be of a singularly beautiful and splendid character. The ceiling itself will be a fine piece of artistic arrangement and elaborate ornamentation. The very beautiful design is by Messrs. Goldie and Child, of whom we have already spoken in connection with St. Vincent's Presbytery. Other new works are to be executed in connection with the church improvements. In the north-east angle formed by the eastern side chapel and transept will be erected a priests sacristy, 35 ft. long and 17 ft. wide, and over that will be a winter choir and chapter house of same dimensions. At the east side of the church adjoining the transept will be another building, 42 ft. long and 20 ft. in width, which will include a boys' sacristy and visitors parlour.

One of the most necessary of the contemplated improvements is the construction of a covered passage and staircase, by which direct communication will be established between the priory and the priests' sacristy. The contract for all these works has been taken by Mr. Barry M'Mullen.

*St. Marie's of the Isle Convent Chapel.*—The extensive convent of the Sisters of Mercy forms a prominent feature in the south-western section of the city, and derives a special interest from its proximity to St. Finn Barre's Cathedral. The convent as it at present stands has been some ten or twelve years built, but the completion of the design is only now being accomplished by the erection of a chapel, with tower and spire. The foundations of the chapel were laid, and several feet of the walls raised ten years ago, and then the work was necessarily suspended. Within the past year a movement for its completion was set on foot. Since then the work has been carried on (and is already far advanced) by Mr. Barry M'Mullen, under the direction of the original architect of the building, Mr. William Atkins. The style of the chapel is early 14th century Gothic, and the treatment of the design is very good. Standing at the southern extremity of the convent, the chapel is 75 ft. long and 23 ft. wide, with apsidal termination. The apse is pierced by three rich traceried windows, with finely-moulded hoods on the interior and marble shafts at the angles. Between these windows will be marble shafts supporting statues, each surmounted by a tasteful canopy. From the south side the chapel will be lighted by four two light windows. On the north side it joins the convent, the choir of which opens transept-wise into the chapel, from which it is separated by four double rows of columns, supporting richly moulded arches. Above these are two neat piercings, through which the occupants of the convent infirmary can see the altar. West of these, resting on a cornice, supported by corbels, will lie an organ chamber, beneath which is placed the sacristy, entered from the church through a handsome doorway. In the west end there is a very fine four-light geometrical window, with three large circles in the head, richly foliated. To the top of the arch the window measures 30 ft., and it is 16 ft. wide. At either side of it, on the exterior, are pretty stone canopied niches for statues. The roof will be open, supported by massive beams and curved ribs, the ends of the beams carved into figures of angels. To the ridge, the height will be 45 ft.; to the eaves, 30 ft. The walls of the chapel, like those of the convent, are of red sandstone; the dressings of all the windows and doorways of limestone, and the other arches of Caen stone, all the shafts and pillars in the structure being of Cork marbles, red and green. Altar and reredos will be in a style to correspond with the rest of the building, and the flooring will be of encaustic tiles. Throughout the interior there will be abundant decorations. So much for the chapel. In the angle which its western extremity forms with the convent will rise a handsome square tower, with spire 151 ft. in height. Through the base of the tower will be the public entrance to the church, by a beautifully moulded doorway. The upper storey of the tower will display on each face two handsome two-light windows; and the elegantly tapering spire will give a very effective vanishing point to the entire group of buildings. Viewed as a whole, the design is in no slight degree creditable to the architect, and all the arrangements appear convenient and appropriate. Mr. M'Mullen's high reputation is sufficient guarantee for the proper execution of the work. Additional strength is given to the appearance of the structure by neat buttresses at the angles. The work has now so far advanced that the roof is being constructed; and we shall be glad when, by the completion of the undertaking, an architectural ornament of no mean order will be added to that part of our city.

*St. Patrick's Convent of Charity.*—The new convent for the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul has been recently commenced in a very healthy and commanding situation on the Wellington road. In connection with the convent there will ultimately be a House of Providence for training young women to household avocations, so as to enable them to become self-supporting—an institution of great value, and much needed in Cork; also a ward for the treatment of a particular class of surgical cases, this being founded in accordance with the will of the late Doctor Murphy, of this city. From an architectural point of view, the erection of the convent will be a material improvement. It will form a prominent and beautiful object on the high, ground off the Wellington-road. The design is by one of the Sisters. Its style is Grecian, somewhat resembling the convent of the same Order at Peacock-lane. It includes a main building of four storeys, fronting the road, the general dimensions being—138 ft. long, 32 ft. wide, and 53 ft. high. From the ends of the main structure recede two wings, measuring 30 ft. by 32 ft. Each of the upper storeys will be lighted by eleven roundheaded windows, the number in the basement to be ten, with a handsome doorway in the centre. The materials used are the red stone of the district, with limestone quoins and neat white brick dressings to the windows. The effect of this combination will be very pleasing. Mr. Edmond Flynn, Blackpool, has the contract for the building.

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