

marble altar, and the purchase of the organ (at a cost of £1,800), were effected (applause). Yet withal, though the expenses required to carry on these improvements were heavy, I believe no appeal was ever made to the Catholic people of Waterford to meet them. They were defrayed by the pence collected at the doors of the church, and principally contributed by the humble and poor (applause). This observation will show you that there is nothing unreasonable in an appeal to your generosity today, to enable us to carry out these most important improvements. Moreover, I feel confident that such an appeal as is at present made, will be unanimously responded to by not only the parishioners but by the citizens at large (applause); for this church is not only a parish church, it is the church of the city—the cathedral—and on that account has claim on the entire city, no matter in what parish you may reside (applause). Ninety years have passed since the church was erected, during the period when the Catholics of Ireland laboured under pressing persecution. To commence such a work and at such a time was a noble conception on the part of the Waterford citizens. Protestant ascendancy was rampant throughout the country at that period. Penal enactments and bigoted contempt for Catholics were rife. No Catholic dared to presume or even aspire to the weanest or most contemptible of municipal offices. Yet, notwithstanding this down-trodden state of the Catholics of the city, as well as the rest of Ireland, this church was then undertaken, and though the penal laws pressed severely on the Catholics of Ireland, still they were not able to crush the indomitable spirit of the Catholic citizens of Waterford. To-day, the church, founded by our ancestors under such deep difficulties, stands and will stand for many generations to come as a marvellous testimonial of their Christian spirit and zeal for the glory of God's house (applause). In the interior the church has received several enlargements and improvements, but it has never been brought to completion. It has not yet been brought into harmony with the advanced state of ecclesiastical architecture in this country. This crowning work devolves upon you to complete and bring to perfection the noble work which was commenced by your zealous ancestors 90 years ago (applause). I am confident the generous spirit which animated them in their great and glorious work, still survives in your hearts, and you will come forward bravely and generous-hearted to contribute to defray the expenses of the needed and great improvements, which I feel confident you will be proud of and admire when completed. Its completion will only give you an adequate idea of what its beauty will be, and I think I am safe in saying that no Church or Cathedral in Ireland will present a more imposing appearance, when perfected, than the one in which we are assembled at present (applause). The Rev. E. Power will now read for you the report on what has been done, and what is still proposed to be done.

Rev. E. Power then read the architect's report as follows:—

Waterford, Oct. 15th, 1881.

"Report on Position of Works at Cathedral."

"MR LORD—I have the honour to report as follows on the works executing for the interior completion of your Lordship's Cathedral:—

- (1) The alteration of the choir and chancel, comprising the modification of lighting; the relaying of floor and steps, and the preparation of foundation of High Altar, are completed as far as they can be, previous to the erection of the High Altar and its canopy, and of the choir and screens.
(2) The decorative painting, as regards the ceiling, is nearly completed, and the work on walls and columns will be at once proceeded with. The two oil paintings representing the Baptism of our Lord and the Descent of the Apostles, measuring each 15 feet by 11 feet, are exhibited in the Cathedral.
(3) The High Altar works are all but completed, and will be sent from Dublin within three weeks for erection. I am able, from careful inspection, to speak highly of both materials and workmanship. The tabernacle, a sumptuous work in metal and enamels, will be ready to fix as soon as the high altar is up.
(4) The side altars are in hands, and the work is excellent as far as it goes; but the contractor is in arrears, though he promises a more active progress.
(5) The choir, screens, and bishop's throne, and the Communion rails are nearly completed, all in massive oak, and of the highest class of art workmanship.
The estimates for these works amount to a total of £3,600. Of this sum £500 has been paid under certificate.

"We beg to invite attention to the importance of completing the interior fittings, by authorising the execution of a public work, for which we submit a design, to cost £200, with its canopy and stairs all in oak, and fixed complete. The Stations of the Cross, measuring about 5 feet by 3 feet 6 in., painted in oil colors by the artist of the two large pictures, will cost from £100 to £120. The confessionals and proper choir stalls should hereafter be done; and it has been proposed to lay the central alley and crossing in front of the Communion rails, with a marble floor, and to re-arrange the seating of the church. The gas-fittings are poor and insufficient, and a new arrangement of lights and new fittings are necessary. No estimates have as yet been taken for these latter works.

"In conclusion, we venture to urge the execution of the revision of the street front of the Cathedral, as shewn in our design. The advantages will be numerous. Space will be gained, greater ease of access to the galleries secured, currents of air reduced, and the two towers for a peal of bells and clock will form features of ornament and convenience in the city. The probable cost would be about £5,000.—I have the honor to be, my lord (for self and partners), your lordship's obedient and faithful servant,

GEORGE GOLDIE."

Rev. Dr. BYAN said the Lord Bishop had spoken with so much ability and force, and in the course of his luminous and comprehensive speech had so exhausted every topic which could be suggested by the subject, that he rose to simply assure his lordship, that he would have every reason to be satisfied with the generous spirit of the people (applause). When the honour of God's house was concerned, no Catholic could or would be indifferent. Wherever we look through the universal Church to which we belong, we will find the greatest evidences of this exalting influence of our faith upon our people. When we turn our eyes to that great and holy city where our holy faith is rooted, the churches there are superior to all others, not only in number, but in the splendour of their glory and magnificence (applause). In France and Germany, Belgium, Portugal, and Spain, the noblest edifices attest the faith and devotion of the people. In England, which was covered with the grandest temples of God, when England was a child of Rome, which were wrested from the Catholic people, by what was called by a freak of irony the Reformation, the Protestants have not raised a single new great church, with one exception, and that was one of the most chilling edifices into which he ever entered (applause). Centuries ago our ancestors raised many splendid churches, but these, at the so-called Reformation, passed into the hands of the enemies of our country and creed; and in this very city there was a beautiful structure which was assigned to Protestant service, that it was razed to the ground by the hands of Vandals. When the oppressive penal laws were enforced, with the object of extirpating our faith, and when the smallest preferment was refused to Catholics, but little could be done in the way of church-building. The people had often to worship in the valley, and on the mountain top. But when there was a fall in the storm, and the waves of persecution were to a certain extent calmed, their great predecessors in the city raised to the honour and glory of God the noble temple in which they then stood (applause). Since then many beautiful churches had been raised in many parts of Ireland; they were distinguished for splendour, size, and beauty; but there was one distinction he claimed for that church above them all—they were raised when the sky was clear and unclouded, but this was erected in times of the utmost difficulty, and therefore the credit due to its founders was all the greater (applause). He would only say, in conclusion, that his lordship need not have one moment's doubt or hesitation as to the response that will be made to his appeal (applause). The people will rally round him and his great cause, with open hands and generous hearts, and they will place at his disposal ample means to realise his conceptions, and make the Cathedral worthy of its high and holy object. He had no doubt that the Catholic people of Waterford would make it worthy of its stirring memories, and make it worthy also of the religious fervour and of the noble public spirit for which the people of this city have been at all times distinguished (applause).

X

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH.

On Sunday, a special public meeting was convened for the purpose of organising a scheme to defray the expenses incurred by the elaborate embellishments and improvements this splendid edifice is undergoing. Such a work, so gigantic in its proportions, so worthy in its end, could not fail to arouse the interest of the Catholics of Waterford, and influential were the number of citizens who responded to the call of the Most Rev. Bishop of the Diocese and the clergy attached to the grand old Cathedral.

The chair, on the suggestion of the Mayor (Ald. Ryan), seconded by Harry Galloway, Esq., City High Sheriff, was occupied by the Most Rev. Dr. Power, Lord Bishop of Waterford, amidst applause and the universal approbation of those present, amongst whom were the following:—

- Ald. L. A. Ryan, Mayor; Mr. Harry Galloway, High Sheriff; Ald. Scott, J. P.; Rev. Dr. Ryan, Adm.; Ald. Manning, T. F. Stanga, Esq.; M. O'Brien, Rev. E. O'Riordan, St. John's College; Rev. James Dalton, do.; Very Rev. Joseph A. Phelan, President, St. John's College; J. Kelly, W. Kelly, T. C.; Michael O'Meara, T. C.; D. Keogh, Rev. P. Shahan, O. C.; Rev. B. Power, O. C.; M. O'Keefe, Esq.; Walter, Rev. W. Quaal, Adm.; Rev. E. Mackin, Ald. P. A. Power, J. P.; Harry Galloway, J. P.; D. Kent, J. P.; P. Kelly, Crown Solicitor; Very Rev. Father Marquah, O. S. B.; P. Kant, Esq.; J. W. Howard, Town Clerk; Rev. Philip Power, O. C.; Rev. M. Keogh, O. C.; Rev. J. A. Wheeler, O. C.; O. Hogan, J. McHenry, T. C.; Rev. E. F. Greenan, O. C.; Rev. W. Ryan, O. C.; Captain Crowe, Walter Walsh, W. H. Walsh, James Phelan, John Phelan, John Power, T. Haughton, James Power, W. Regan, J. McKeown, Miss Mary Thompson, T. O'Toole, John Ryan, J. Hargre, J. Vale, O. Hackett, John Tobin, W. Grant, M. Farrell, G. J. Briscoe, &c., &c.

His Lordship, who was greeted with unbounded enthusiasm, said:—The Mayor and gentlemen, the meeting is convened by my direction, and when you look upon the state of the Cathedral and the improvements which have been partially executed, you will easily understand my object for inviting you here. When I was elevated to the Episcopal dignity and government of this vast and important diocese, I found the Cathedral, so worthily adorned for its imposing position, and its numerous accommodations, wanting very considerably in improvements. The organ and screens, the windows, were in a very dilapidated state, and these required to be replaced, and I have accordingly arranged a subscription for their repair and improvement, and I have the honor to announce that the subscription list is now open, and that the public are invited to contribute to it as far as they are able.

the Cathedral, on Sunday, the subject of which was the "Anniversary of the dedication of the Churches of Ireland." Very Rev. Joseph A. Phelan said—I have asked you, dear brethren, not to allow the traditions of your fathers to suffer in your hands. I have spoken, though you need no speech of mine to remind you, of the long centuries of persecution when Ireland was the martyr nation of the Christian world. You know also what a wonder was revealed to the eyes of men as soon as the shadow that so long rested over our people was even, in part, uplifted. Fire, famine, the sword, the rack, and the halter, had been freely tried upon them for centuries, and, spite of all, the nation lived. Lived, did I say? Live is a poor paltry word to tell of that abounding, abiding, indestructible vitality. Almost immediately that a moment of partial freedom was grudgingly given, seven millions—two millions more than our population to-day—seven millions of Catholic souls bowed before the Cross and worshipped at the altar. "Surely there is no other nation so great that hath their God so nigh to them as our God is present to us." "For He hath not done thus to many people, nor hath He so manifested His judgments to them." "Behold the tabernacle of God with men, and He will dwell with them." Once more, from end to end of the partly emancipated land, convent and monastery and school, crowned with the blessed and beloved symbol of salvation, sprung, as it were, spontaneously from the earth. In city, and town, and far away country places, gradually but surely arose, magnificent cathedrals, or spacious temple, or graceful wayside church, proving that the heart of this long enslaved race had lost none of the first fire of its burning zeal, but still throbbled as warmly as ever with its grand old love of "beauty as God's house and of the place where His glory dwelleth." By many years, first in order of time, and certainly not last in order of dignity, among the proudest proofs of this renaissance, this new birth, or resurrection of the ancient spirit of religion and loyalty to the holy faith, stood, and thank God, still stands, as I speak, this dear old glorious edifice, in its way, I believe in my soul, as splendid a monument to the religion, the courage, and the generosity of a people as can be found the wide world over. Most of us have worshipped in this temple for years; many of us, like myself, have lived our first conscious act of faith in the Divine Sacramental Presence under its roof and before its holy altar. We have all loved it, and we have been proud of it. We have treasured every word that has been written or spoken of its fitness, its beauty, and its grandeur. And honourable indeed have been such testimonies; for among the witnesses we count men of great name "among the nations." I may mention one who stands in the forefront of the good and great who have laid the golden tribute of their genius, their enlightenment, and their virtue on the shrine of the holy Catholic church—I mean John Henry Cardinal Newman. I may, perhaps, also, be allowed to recall the words of praise spoken by another prelate, of our own country, whose eloquent language will be in the remembrance of some of my hearers, as in a large assemblage of bishops and priests in this city, not many years ago, in glowing periods, of which he is a master, he gave expression to his enlightened and impassioned admiration of this grand cathedral-church of ours. Still, dear brethren, all along we could not help feeling that there was something wanting, that there was room, even need, for improvement, and that we owed it to our best impulses, as well as to the memory, dear and hallowed forever, of our fathers, dead and gone long ago, to perfect the work they so nobly began. Rightly interpreting and cordially sympathising with this praiseworthy sentimentally, but revered and beloved bishop has already placed the task of gratifying it in the hands of one of the ablest, most cultured, and most successful architects in these realms. You are summoned to-day to give your hearty co-operation in carrying out this undertaking, intended for the edification and salvation of yourselves and of your children and successors in this parish and city, but most of all for the glory of the ever-living, ever-present Deity. Having already detained you too long, I will only add that as a son, and a priest of this old Celtic, Catholic city, it gives me intense, unspeakable gratification to speak these humble words, which come straight from my heart, and to say for you and for myself, that, with God's help, we will not fail, by our earnest, generous and untiring efforts, to do what in us lies in order to crown the holy work with a glorious success. We will emulate, we cannot surpass, the grand example of the original founders of this great edifice. Looking around us we see in the beautiful and, for its purposes, almost perfect church before us, the shrine of the holy Catholic church—and in the ceremonies and proceedings in famed Lismore only this day week, the great things that can be done by themselves in smaller and less wealthy communities than our own, when their heart is in their work, and their work is for God. I will not for a moment permit myself to doubt that, among the proverbially religious and open-handed people of the capital of our county and the see of our diocese, especially among the parishioners of time-honoured Trinity Within, there will be a liberality still larger, a zeal still more self-sacrificing and enthusiastic. Nor is it to be forgotten that, so well has the ordinary income been husbanded, that this is the first appeal—an unexampled fact in this country—that has been made for the preservation, decoration, or improvement of this building since it was opened, now nearly a full century ago. The names of the original subscribers are preserved with religious care. To-day a new honour-roll will be begun. And the names inscribed upon it shall be handed down as an example and an edification to generations yet unborn. There is no vanity in this; for we should be fools, indeed, did we look here for any other fame than the fame that comes of being instruments in promoting the glory of God and the salvation of souls. The plans of the projected improvements are before you. From them, and from the decorations you may see above and around you, you may in part judge of what is to come. I say in part, for inadequate and erroneous are the opinions of the greatest masterpieces formed by those who see them only in the beginning. Of one thing I am sure, that in its new shape and guise, our church will be a "thing of beauty." And at some future day, it may be, dear brethren, if the Lord be pleased to spare us, having bowed before its magnificent altar, we raise our eyes to scan its gorgeous roof and majestic columns, glittering with gold and glowing with countless delicate, striking, and harmonious hues, borrowed from all that is loveliest in the heavens or on the earth, while the sun's rays pass through the richly-stained glass,

"Brumming the church with gold and purple mist," and as the mighty organ peals forth its "mellow thunder," thankful, prayerful, happy thoughts will rise, that we have had our share in the glorious work—thoughts that will surely noisise dim the hope with which we look forward to that other and only true home of God, where through His mercy He will reign over us, in unveiled splendour, for ever and ever. Behold the Tabernacle of God with men, and He will dwell with them. And they shall be his people, and He shall be their God. And He shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

Brennan and others, we consider it a most unwise and impolitic exercise of an unusual and despotic power, and we request the Government to release them at an early date."

Mr. SMITH said he had great pleasure in seconding the motion. He agreed with the sentiments expressed in it. He thought they were only using

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