

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, CORK.

As promised some time since, we now present a geometrical elevation showing one of the fronts of this building, viz.—that facing the road, or St. Luke's Cross. The design is by Sir John Benson, in conjunction with Mr. William H. Hill, the diocesan architect, who is now having the works carried out; and already very considerable progress has been made. The effect of the portions executed is most effective; and, as an architectural composition, decidedly good. Unlike very many designs of the present day, the building is better than the drawing.

The North-Italian-Romanesque (if we may use such a term) is the style adopted; and, as far as we can judge from inspection of an incomplete structure, with the best possible results. The space at the disposal of the architects was singularly irregular and circumscribed, and the utmost has been made of it. The new building is planned to extend to the limits of the ground on three sides, leaving the fourth—the eastern—for a future enlargement in that direction;

The old red sandstone of the neighbourhood, in punched random ashlar, is being used for the walling, with dressings of chiselled limestone; the internal dressings of Bath stone, and red marble columns, and the internal facings of walls executed with a very light salmon-coloured enamelled brick, with deep red bands and discharging arches; open timber roof of pitch pine, of flat pitch, supported on ornamental curved ribs, with a central dome at intersection of nave and transepts, and half domes over the apses—north and south. On the whole, the arrangement appears a very complete one, although an innovation on the "Established Ecclesiastical Commissioners' Plan," which has so long held sway in Ireland; but we are bound to admit that in many essential points of practical utility, the new St. Luke's will be found to possess many advantages over the stereotyped so-called Gothic buildings of the past thirty years

We cannot but admire a structure in which

*fitness* or adaptability for the purpose of its erection is made the leading object to be attained; and we shall certainly be greatly disappointed if St. Luke's Church, when complete, does not fulfil the condition. The only feature of the external design that we are disposed to quarrel with is the "*spire*" portion, which crowns the campanile or tower; this, we understand, is to be the original spire, modified and reset, to meet the wishes; or rather to conciliate the conservative prejudices of the residents of the neighbourhood (both Catholic and Protestant), who from the force of habit and ignorance of art are so wedded to the old familiar form, and that willy-nilly it must go up again, notwithstanding that its presence (at no time good) will mar an otherwise perfect and complete design.

The building, when finished, will accommodate a congregation of about 900, and the cost will be about £6,000.

We hope, before long, to give an internal view of this building; and at the same time to enter into a more detailed description.

[Taken from *Irish Builder*, Vol. XV, 1873, p.19]