

IMPROVEMENTS AT CORK.

THE "Improvement Department" of the Cork Corporation received a deputation a few days ago, who appeared on behalf of the select vestry of the parish of the Cathedral. From the statement of the spokesman of the deputation, the object was a good and sanitary one—to bring before the council the wretched state of the approaches to that part of the city; and they did so first on public grounds entirely, because he thought anyone who knew that locality would see that the only road leading from the south part of the city to the west was that small street, Bishop-street, which was only about 18 feet wide. The traffic required some larger outlet. For sanitary reasons also some improvement was necessary, because the churchyard of St. Fin Barr's was a great deal higher than the surface of the road or the foundations of the adjoining houses, and as the very unhealthy matter oozed from the side of the graveyard, it would prove very injurious to the health of those residing in that locality. On these public grounds it was very desirable that a new street should be opened there, or the present one widened for the purpose of public convenience. There was no doubt that they also applied on the part of the St. Fin Barr's Cathedral, because they thought they had some little right to expect a decent approach to that Cathedral, on which so much money had been spent; and as they had been expending money for similar purposes on buildings elsewhere, and to which he need not allude, he thought the deputation had some claim on their consideration just as they had extended it to those other buildings. There were two plans which had been put into his hands—one was to open a new street entirely, ending at St. Fin Barr's brewery, and in carrying out this they would slope down the ground from the graveyard to prevent oozing out of the of offensive matter. They would have to close the present street, and purchase buildings there if they carried out this plan. On the other side of the street the idea was to throw into the convent the remaining portion of the ground there down to the river. At the present time he was not going to enter into the question as to which was the best idea, but their own officers would be better able to advise the Council on them. The other idea was to allow them on sanitary grounds to take in twenty or thirty feet and to add it to the churchyard. When they did that they could open a new street immediately behind the present one, thirty or forty feet wide. They would have to carry away some old and wretched houses, the leases of which would soon expire. If they thought the first plan too expensive and adopted the second, they thought it was the least the Corporation of Cork ought to do for them. Therefore, on public grounds, widening the street for traffic, and on sanitary grounds, in getting rid of this offensive matter that issued from the churchyard, he would ask them to refer the subject to the standing committee, who would get the Corporate officers to look at the plans the deputation would place before them, and give them an estimate of the expense.

The Rev. M. Archdall, as one of the deputation, spoke as a Prebendary of the Cathedral. He said that the community to which they belonged spent a large sum of money on the new Cathedral of St. Fin Barr, and that they were every day spending large sums of money in beautifying and enlarging it. He stated that travellers from all parts of the world visited Cork, and St. Fin Barr's was one of the places they went to see. On these and other grounds which he stated they asked the Corporation to assist and to take steps for the improvement of the approaches to the cathedral. On sanitary grounds he considered there was a reason for the called for improvement, for the churchyard in its present state did not lead to the health of the city. The old remains of this churchyard are higher than the street below, and the sewage from it was without doubt most injurious.

A resolution, after a long discussion, was passed, referring the matter to the immediate consideration of the standing committee.

At the same meeting a letter was read from the hon. secretary of the Cork School of Art, in which he complained that the green in front was used as a refuge for idlers during the day, and that card-playing was carried on there. The matter was referred to the standing committee, and it is to be hoped that they will take steps for the abatement of the nuisance by erecting a substantial paling or other enclosure to afford the protection sought, without at the same time infringing the liberties of the people

[Taken from *Irish Builder*, Vol. XVII, 1875, p.162]