

CHRIST CHURCH, CORK.

THIS church, which had been closed for some months during the erection of a chancel and the making of important internal changes, was reopened on the 22nd ult. Christ Church is a type of edifice which has long since ceased to be erected. Some of the finest of the old churches of London were of the same Classic character, and designed by Sir Christopher Wren, but we believe none of them can excel Christ Church in the simple beauty of its proportions. Previous to the present alterations the organ and choir were arranged in the west gallery, and the pulpit, with its large parabolic sounding-board suspended over it, stood high in the centre of the east end. In former times this was the common arrangement throughout the United Kingdom—the clerk's desk, the reading-desk, and then the pulpit, all rising like a three decker to command the congregation. This arrangement has fallen out of use in modern ecclesiastical architecture, and in the remodelling and improving of Christ Church it has ceased to be. A beautiful apse now swells out beyond the east wall. A new organ fills the east bay at the north side, and in front of it are disposed handsome chair seats. These are ranged at each side of the centre passage, which has been laid with encaustic tiles. The decorations are simple but effective, especially those of the chancel roof. The old pulpit still remains in use, but a memorial pulpit will likely be erected to the memory of a late esteemed rector. Among the other alterations in the church we may mention that the corporation pew has been removed from the north to the west gallery, the site of the old organ. The gallery fronts have been removed and substituted by a light railing. The whole interior has been painted, and altogether the improvements are of a most satisfactory character, and impart quite a new appearance to this old edifice. The works have been carried out by Mr. Barry M'Mullen, contractor, under the direction of Mr. W. Hill, architect.

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