

BENDIGO CATHEDRAL.

In this week's number of this journal we produce a picture of the proposed Roman Catholic Cathedral at Bendigo. The building will be erected upon a block of land having an area of about two acres, and fronting Wattle, M'Kenzie, and Short streets, and also facing High-street, contiguous to the Wattle-street Reserve.

The site which has been selected is one of the finest positions of the city, and has been leased for a long term of years for the purpose from the trustees of the late Dr. Backhaus, and, as will be remembered, the city council has undertaken to have the reserve constituted as a public reserve, and to have it fenced and planted with ornamental shrubs and trees.

The style of the proposed Cathedral is early English Gothic, and when completed the structure will be one of the largest and handsomest of its class in Australia. The dimensions are only second to St. Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne, and the materials employed will be freestone on granite foundations. The plan consists of nave, transepts, aisles, chancel, six chapels, sacristies, a great central tower, two minor towers, and four turrets.

The front is treated with two western transepts, which provides space for an organ chamber on each side of the choir gallery. The total length from the west front to the chancel end will be 287ft. 6in., the extreme width across the transepts, 156ft.; the width of the nave and aisles, 74ft. 6in.; and the length of nave up to chancel arch, 188ft.; and seating accommodation, exclusive of organ gallery, will provide for 2500 persons. The central tower will be 38ft. square.

There are four octagonal side chapels, each 20ft. wide, and two others each 40ft. by 17ft. 6in.

The height of nave and chancel from floor to ridge is 80ft., and of the aisles 32ft.

The great central tower will rise to the height of 300ft., and each of the two front towers to 146ft. The window is 30ft. high, and has five lights, with tracery head. The front entrance opens into a porch which extends across the nave and aisles, and, in addition to the front door, has one at each end of similar dimensions. The spirit of the whole design will correspond with that of some of the famous abbey churches of Great Britain, the cathedral character being obtained by the treatment of the west front, the large central tower, and

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the importance of the chancel. The building will be placed on the ground in such a way as to enable the front and side to be seen at the best effect from High-street. The site is an admirable one, being on the higher slopes of one of the most prominent of eminences of Bendigo, and the view of the building from High-street will be entirely uninterrupted. The appearance will be also greatly enhanced by the wide flight of steps and massive granite wing walls, which will lead up to the principal doorways, the main entrance being towards Wattle-street.

The portions at present to be erected will consist of the nave and aisles, two side chapels, the complete front, flanking towers, and two of the great piers of central tower.

The workmanship throughout will be of the best description, and no pains will be spared to make the building massive, complete, and ornamental. Some months ago his Lordship Dr. Crane, Bishop of Sandhurst, called for competitive designs for the proposed building from several leading local and Melbourne architects, and after careful and mature consideration the design of Messrs. Reed, Smart, and Tappin was accepted subject to the conditions of the competition. The plans

for the new Cathedral are very voluminous, and it is expected that when the building is erected it will be one of the most imposing edifices in the Australian colonies. A few weeks ago tenders for the erection of the building were called, and are now under consideration. It is needless to say that the competition for so large and important a work has been very great. The work, which is one of the largest that has been initiated in the colonies, is without doubt a most fitting culmination of the great works that have for many years past been carried to a successful termination by the Catholic clergy and laity of the diocese of Sandhurst. Before the constitution of the district as the diocese of Sandhurst, the well-known the Very Rev. Dean Backhaus for many years was in charge of the parish. In the year 1874 the Most Rev. Dr. Crane was appointed to the newly-formed bishopric of Sandhurst (which was then separated from the diocese of Melbourne). Dr. Crane was born at Barry's Town, in the county of Wexford, Ireland, in 1818, and was educated at St. Peter's College, Wexford, and was

IRELAND, in 1818, and was educated at St. Peter's College, Wexford, and was eventually admitted as a novice in the Augustinian Convent of Grantstown, which institution also sent forth many other eminent men, including the Most

Rev. Dr. Gould, the first Archbishop of Melbourne, and the Most Rev. Dr. Doyle, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin. Upon completion of his novitiate he was sent to Italy to finish his ecclesiastical course, and after his ordination as a priest was recalled to Ireland, where he was an acknowledged eloquent and practical preacher. He was afterwards appointed Superior of the Irish Augustinian Convent at Rome, and subsequently returned to Ireland as a member of the Community of his Order in Dublin, and, owing to his wonderful energy, labour, and perseverance, he was enabled to provide the funds for the erection of the magnificent church of St. Augustine, Thomas-street, Dublin, which was built under his own supervision at an outlay of over £100,000. In the year 1874, whilst travelling in America, he received the news that his Holiness Pope Pius IX. had selected him as the first Bishop of Sandhurst. Returning to Dublin, he was consecrated in the pro-Cathedral there by his Eminence Cardinal Cullen, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Furlong, Bishop of Ferris, and the Rev. Dr. Moran, Bishop of Ossary (now Cardinal Moran), on 21st September, 1874, and left immediately for Melbourne. Accompanied by the Rev. Stephen Reville (now coadjutor-Bishop of Sand-

hurst), he arrived in Bendigo in the month of May of that year. Since that time, under the able administration of his Lordship Dr. Crane, who celebrated the twenty-second anniversary of his consecration as Bishop on the 21st of September, 1896, the influence and progress of the Roman Catholic Church has marvellously increased. It speaks volumes to say that since his arrival no less than seventeen parishes have been erected in the diocese, and the number of churches has increased from 49 to 102, and during the same period eight convents have been established.

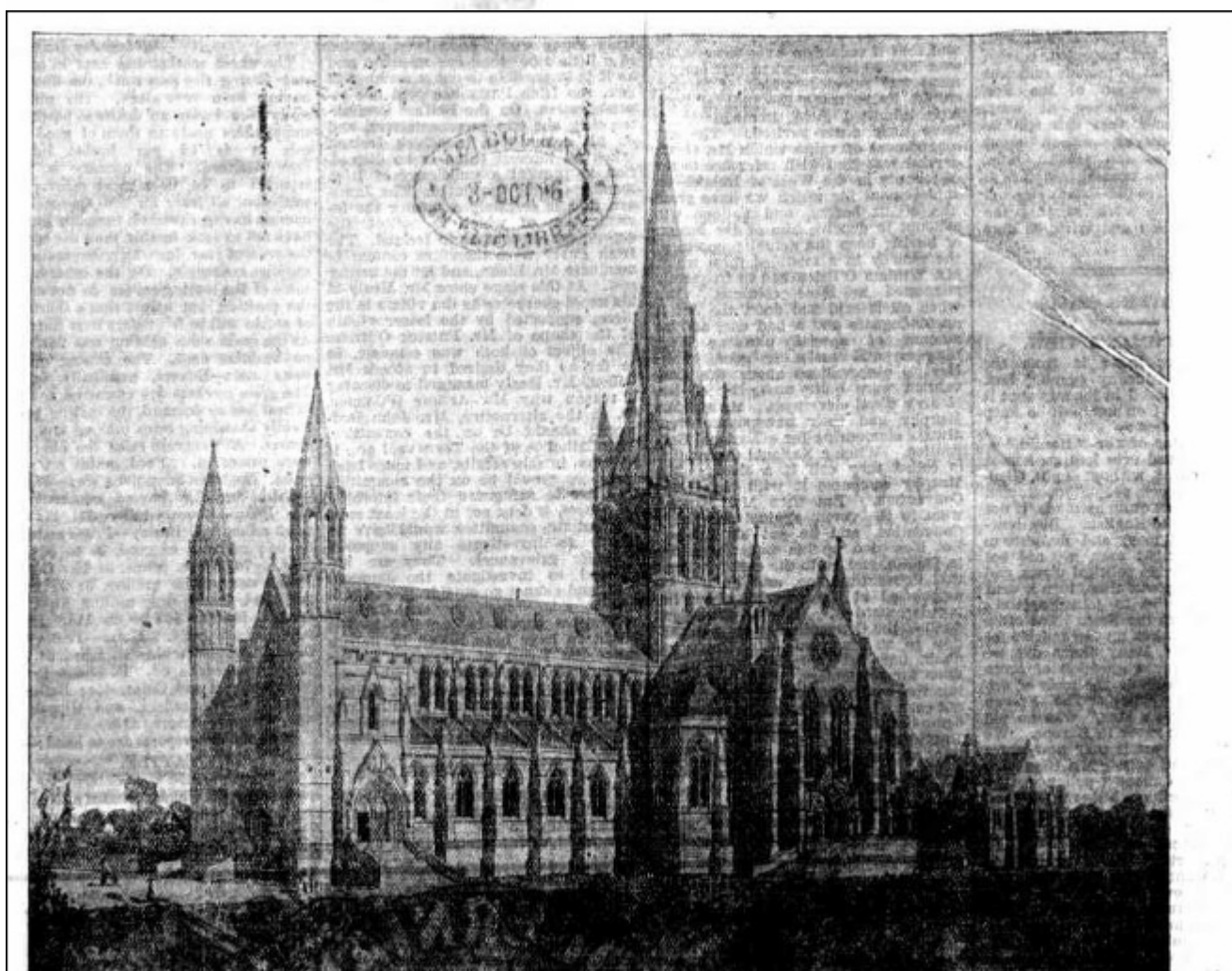
The original pro-Cathedral, which was built many years ago, has also been superseded by elegant and extensive new buildings, and the Bishop's Palace, for the accommodation of himself and his clergy, has added a great ornament to the city of Bendigo. Amongst his many

city of Bendigo. Amongst his many arduous duties his Lordship has not forgotten the welfare of the younger members of his flock, and has been enabled, by the generous assistance of his devoted community, to provide educational establishments inferior to none in the colonies, and since the creation of the diocese an order of the Sisters of Mercy, which has been established in the city, has supplied a much-needed want in the education of

all classes. The Order of the Marist Brothers has also been established for the education of the male juveniles, and a very handsome monastery has been erected for their accommodation. Free schools, under the charge and direction of the nuns and brothers, have also been provided, and the most satisfactory results have been obtained by their scholars in the University of Melbourne. At the same time, whilst the secular education of the children has been assiduously attended to, the religious instruction has claimed the first consideration. In the year 1882 Dr. Crane had occasion to visit Rome, and it was then his intention to be absent from the colony for a period of two years, when he appointed his vicar-general, Dr. Reville, to administer the affairs of the diocese during his absence; but, owing to a great affliction, which detained him on the Continent, and which eventually resulted in the loss of his sight, the venerable prelate was obliged to remain for a further period. His Lordship at once petitioned the Holy See for the appointment of a coadjutor-Bishop, and Dr. Reville was consequently appointed. On Palm Sunday, 1885, his Lordship Dr. Reville was consecrated by the Very Rev. Dr. Gould, Archbishop of Mel-

bourne, as coadjutor-Bishop at St. Kilian's pro-Cathedral, amidst the heartiest good wishes and satisfaction of the Catholic clergy and laity. Bishop Reville was born in Wexford in 1844, and was also educated at St. Peter's College. He was in the year 1867 ordained, in Ghent, Belgium, a priest, and in the following year was appointed to the Convent of St. Augustine, Dublin, and for seven years was in charge of St. Laurence O'Toole's Seminary. During the absence of Dr. Crane Dr. Reville appeared before the Royal Commission appointed by the Government of Victoria for the purpose of inquiring

Victoria for the purpose of inquiring into the working of the Education Act, and put forward in a very emphatic and able way the views of his community with regard to the existing education system. He also attended the first Plenary Council held in Australia, which met in Sydney in the year 1885, and was also present with the Very Rev. Dr. Sylvester Barry at the meeting of the same council during last year. In the year 1889 Dr. Reville left the colony for a short holiday for the benefit of his health, and visited Rome, England, and Ireland, when he returned in the following year, and on his return was presented with very handsome testimonials by his



DESIGN OF ST. KILIAN'S CATHEDRAL, BENDIGO.

Architects—Messrs. Reed, Smart and Toppin.]

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Lordships the very great progress that has been made in the diocese is conclusively evidenced by the fact that nearly a quarter of a million of money has been raised for and spent in the erection of churches, presbyteries, convents, and schools. Handsome presbyteries have been built at Heathcote, Echua, Kerang, Pyramid Hill, Rochester, Nagambie, Tatura, Dookie, Shepparton, Numurkah, Yarrawonga, Benalla, Wangaratta, Beechworth, Chiltern, and Myrtleford; and likewise convents at Echua, Rochester, Wangaratta, Beechworth, Yarrawonga, Wodonga, and Numurkah. The Catholic population of the diocese now exceeds in number 80,000, and during the last 22 years the number of priests has increased from six to forty. On the Bishop's arrival in the diocese there were no nuns. At present there are several convents and over one hundred nuns. The early progress of the building of the new Cathedral has been brought about by the desire of his Lordship to provide employment for a great number of the present unemployed, and thus to lessen and ameliorate the great distress recently prevailing; and in this wise determination we feel sure that his thoughtfulness will be applauded by the whole community. Arrangements have been made through his solicitors, Messrs. Kennedy and Woodward, with our well-known and respected citizen, Mr. George Lansell, to provide sufficient funds for the erection of the first portion of the building at once, and it is expected that this will be ready for occupation within about three years from the present time. The architects are opening an office in Bendigo, and will be in constant personal attendance on the work, so that the greatest satisfaction and attention may be given to it.