

# Architecture and Building

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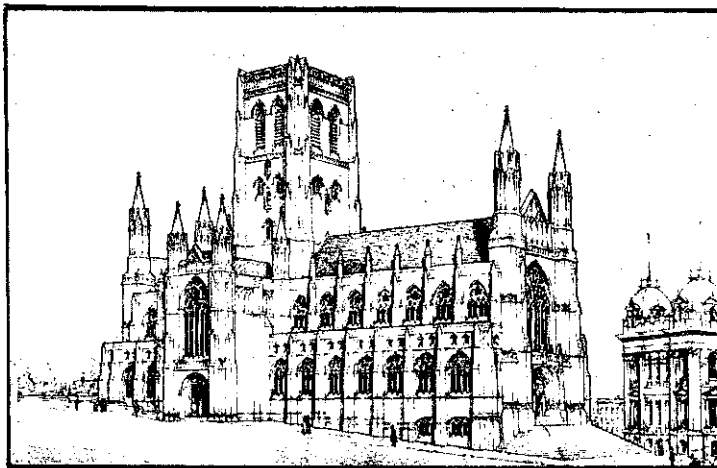
## The New Cathedral, Dunedin

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Before proceeding with a description of the Cathedral itself, a few words as to the inception of the building scheme may be of interest. In the year 1905, the late Mr. Harrop bequeathed the sum of £20,000, for the purpose of erecting a new Cathedral, a condition attached being that, another £20,000 was to be collected before the expiry of 20 years, failing which the money was to be given to the Oddfellows. Also it was stipulated that the building was to be erected on the site of the old Cathedral. Soon after

the beginning of 1915 saw the old church cleared away. It was not till May of that year, however, that building operations were started. The foundation stone was laid by the Primate on June 8th, with full religious ceremony and Masonic ritual.

Soon after the completion of the foundations, tenders were called for the erection of the superstructure, and in September a contract was signed for £28,458, the six other tenders ranging up to £49,500. This variation in tenders is striking, especially when the quantities were supplied and guaranteed by the Board, and showing that it was chiefly a matter of pricing the labour. The site in some ways is a very good one. It is convenient and in a conspicuous place. No visitor could fail to



A PERSPECTIVE OF DUNEDIN CATHEDRAL

The chief points of difference between the perspective as shown above and the correct designs, consists in: (a), The addition of flying buttresses; (b), Wing walls above the West end of aisles; (c), Variation in the tracery of the windows; (d), Alteration in the design of steps; (e), Greater height of floor above ground; (f) Complete revision of tower which now shows a "crown" finish.

this the Primate when in England, arranged with Mr. Edmund Sedding, F.R.I.B.A., a well known ecclesiastical architect, to design the Cathedral. Sketch plans were prepared and brought out, and finally in the year 1909, Mr. Sedding came out himself and arranged all details, including the appointment of supervising architect. Many years passed, and many weary Board and Committee meetings were held, at which numerous alterations and amendments to the plan received from Mr. Sedding were proposed. Among many others were suggestions that the plan should be reduced in area, and the altar be placed at the true east end. When all these points were settled, discussions arose as to which section was to be commenced first, and decisions swayed from side to side, till at last, towards the close of 1914, the present position was finally adopted, and

notice it, as it stands well above the highest part of the Octagon reserve. From a town-planning point of view, however, it is not ideal. In the first place, the site is cramped on all sides. Secondly, it is to one side, and not in the centre of the Octagon rise. What a magnificent effect would have been obtained if it had been placed in the centre of Stuart Street, and two streets carried up, one on either side, joining together at the back! What a noble vista would have been the result, noticeable all the way up Stuart Street from the Railway Station (itself forming a most effective vista from the Octagon). The same effect would have been obtained from the hill, coming down upper Stuart Street, and from all the points of vantage on the Town Belt, Queen's Drive etc. In fact the position would have been such as Christ-church Cathedral has, but with all the added advan-