

fore it is better to aim only at the possible and to spend hundreds upon that for which five hundred years ago the equivalent of thousands would have been available.

To this end the architects have aimed at designing a structure of which the cost shall be within a very definite sum, discarding everything not absolutely essential that might militate against this end and employing everywhere the very simplest materials. The finished building will seat comfortably about eleven hundred persons, not including the stalls for choristers and clergy, and upon high festivals this number can, and doubtless will be, considerably increased.

The materials shown and called for in the specifications are, for the exterior walls' surfaces, the extremely beautiful variety of seam-faced trap rock known locally as iron stone, whose long flat forms and rugged surfaces in the walls of both the citadel and arsenal, are familiar to every resident of Halifax. The materials of a building should savor of the locality whenever possible, and ironstone has the added merit of extreme economy.

For the structural trimmings both outside and inside it is proposed to employ a form of concrete, the basis of which shall be the same trap rock broken and ground into small pieces. A number of exhaustive tests of this material have been made, and in each it has proved itself worthy. For example, its absorption is but one-third that of natural limestone, a most valuable quality when one considers the biting salt winds to which it must be subjected. In a material of this sort, too, many perfectly legitimate effects are possible, such as the elaborate and delicate moulding of shafts, arches and window tracery, the cost of which would be prohibitive if chiselled by hand from natural stone.

The two points of a church most vulnerable to fire are the organ, with its interior of thin and extremely dry deal, and the floor. As for the organ no means for reducing the danger has so far been discovered, but for the floor the simplest and most economical method of keeping it to a minimum is found in concrete, in which for the sake of extra tensile strength a network of laced light steel rods is embedded and upon this surface in both choir and sanctuary a certain patterning of tiles, etc., has been shown.

The ceiling of nave, transepts and chancel is frankly of wood, to be stained dark, though so designed that in the future if circumstances seem to justify such a proceeding vaulting of one sort or another may be substituted. In the lower portions, such as aisles and ambulatories, arched vaults or else slabs of masonry have been shown, that the building may be rendered as nearly fireproof as may be.

The roof is of slate and it is greatly to be hoped that these may be "graduated" instead of the thin, equal-dimensioned type commonly in use. Such graduation is almost invariably in old work abroad and has lately, at the instigation of the architects of the building now being described, been most successfully introduced into the United States.

Wherever material is necessary, as for flashing, capping, etc., copper, though costly, is the one thing that

can be counted upon to withstand the saltiness of the atmosphere.

For the rest, only the simplest materials and those readiest to hand, have been specified, the one care of the designers having been that such should be always honest and appropriate first, and beautiful second.

The dimensions of the finished building are roughly as follows: Interior length of nave from narthex wall to chancel arch 135 feet, width of nave from face to face of piers 29 feet. Length of chancel 80 feet, width 26 feet. Width at crossing 72 feet. Height of nave from floor to under side of apex of roof trusses 64 feet. Height of chancel 54 feet. Exterior height from appropriate grade to ridge line of nave roof 68 feet. Height of central tower 132 feet. Width of central tower 40 feet. Exterior width of nave and aisles 58 feet. Extreme width of building, taken at transepts, 86 feet. Extreme length 255 feet.

In addition to the various sacristies, offices, etc., a small chapel has been incorporated for early celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Lenten services, etc., while beneath the sanctuary a small crypt is provided. This would serve as a mortuary chapel and possibly as a burial place for high dignitaries.

In the structure only such offices have been provided as are strictly necessary, and even some of these, such as the working sacristy, wherein the altar guild prepares and arranges flowers, etc., have for the sake of greater economy been placed in the basement, though this arrangement, it is to be hoped, may prove to be but a merely temporary expedient, and that in time, such important adjunct rooms as this, the chapter room, the various indispensable guilds, school rooms and so forth, may find housing in the irregular and scattered group surrounding the cloister garth.

Finally, since it is scarcely to be expected that funds sufficient to provide for the erection of the complete building shall be immediately forthcoming, it is proposed to construct only a portion of the building now, and this will consist of the chancel, crossing, transepts, and three bays of the nave. In this first construction everything that will admit of such a treatment will be left rough, nor will the great tower be carried much above the apex of the roof. Of course the front wall will be but temporary, but by having the tracery of the great end window made now, it may be set in this and removed to its rightful position when the nave is carried to completion. Such a structure, though confessedly incomplete, need not lack dignity, and its dark mass, looming above the city, should, and it may well be hoped will, stand as a constant incentive to those who worship within its walls, to work with a hearty will to the end that it may finally lift its every part proudly towards the sky, the visible embodiment of all the noble aspirations of which the human heart is capable.