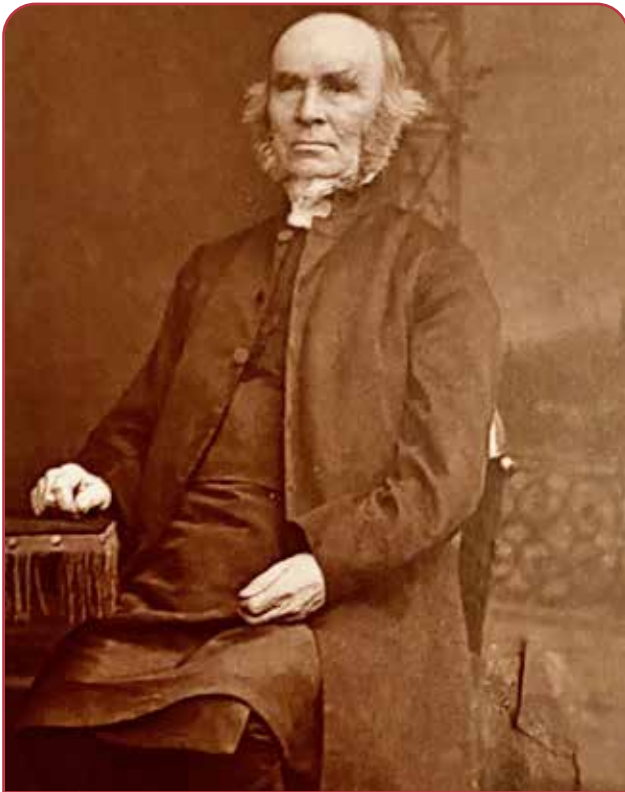


The Consecration

The Cathedral was consecrated on 30th November 1870 by Bishop John Gregg.



Here is one account of the consecration. It was written by Dr Richard Caulfield:

1870. 30th November, St. Andrew's Day. The long-expected morning at length arrived, and the weather was singularly favourable to the accomplishment of one of the greatest events that has ever been recorded in the annals of the Church of Ireland. At an early hour, every approach to the cathedral presented a continuous stream of people, and long before the time for opening the gates, the precincts were crowded.

At half-past Ten, those who were favoured with tickets, were admitted through the different entrances, and in a few moments the cathedral began to fill. At Eleven, the great central doors were opened, when the Freemasons passed in, and occupied the places assigned them in the transept. Immediately after, Alderman Casey, who represented the Mayor, with other members of the Corporation, attended by the Sword and Mace Bearers, proceeded up the aisle and took

their position contiguous to the great north-west pier, when the sword and mace were placed on a table before Alderman Casey, who sat in the chair used by the Mayor in the assemblies of the Council. The Aldermen were habited in crimson gowns, trimmed with sable. The Treasurer, City Engineer, Mace and Sword Bearers, &c., wore the different robes of office. The bells were now ringing out merry peals. Expectation was at its highest pitch amongst the great multitudes that occupied every available place.

The Archbishops and Bishops, who had robed at the Palace, were now met at halfpast Eleven o'clock, at the western gate, by the Dean, Prebendaries, Canons, and Choir of the Cathedral, when the Dean presented the Petition for Consecration to the Bishop of Cork. The procession now commenced to move, and those congregated in the cathedral could occasionally hear the music, as it were of many voices, falling softly on the ear. At length the procession having arrived at the western door, the Choir advanced up the aisle, chanting the 24th Psalm. On reaching the steps leading to the stalls, the Choir and Canons divided to let the remainder of the procession pass; and on reaching the steps opposite the throne, the Dignitaries and Prebendaries likewise divided to let the Dean and Bishop pass.

The Dean then ushered the Archbishops and Bishops to their places within the rails, and the Bishop of Cork to his throne. Meanwhile, Dr Marks played a voluntary on the great organ, which has been put up by Hill & Co., of London, at a cost of £1,500.

The Service was then proceeded with. The Lord Primate preached from Psalm cxxxiii. 1. Evening Service at 7 o'clock; the proceedings commenced as in the morning, with a procession from the western door, the Choir chanting the lxviii Psalm, (8th tone, 2nd ending). The Bishop of Peterborough preached from Ezekiel, xiv., 22nd and 23rd verses.