

Charlotte Quay Car Park. Both are along West Watergate. The line of the walls through the new Watergate residential development is marked on the ground with rows of stone setts.

The walls in construction seem to comprise a very solid rubble masonry core of limestone and hard lime mortar, faced on both sides with strong well cut rubble ashlar limestone masonry.

### ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral Church of St. John, the spiritual centre of the See of Limerick, is a Gothic Revival building, which was designed by Thomas Hardwicke of London. The foundation stone was laid by Bishop Ryan on May 1st, 1856. It seems that at first the plan was to build a commodious parish church and that it was only after the building had been in progress that it was decided the new church should be the cathedral of the diocese. The width of the aisles alone is a remarkable feature of the Cathedral. The 'A' shaped roofs over them have the effect of darkening the nave of the building. Messrs. Hennessy, a Limerick firm of Architects, designed the spire which is the highest in Ireland (280 feet). It will be noticed that the spire is

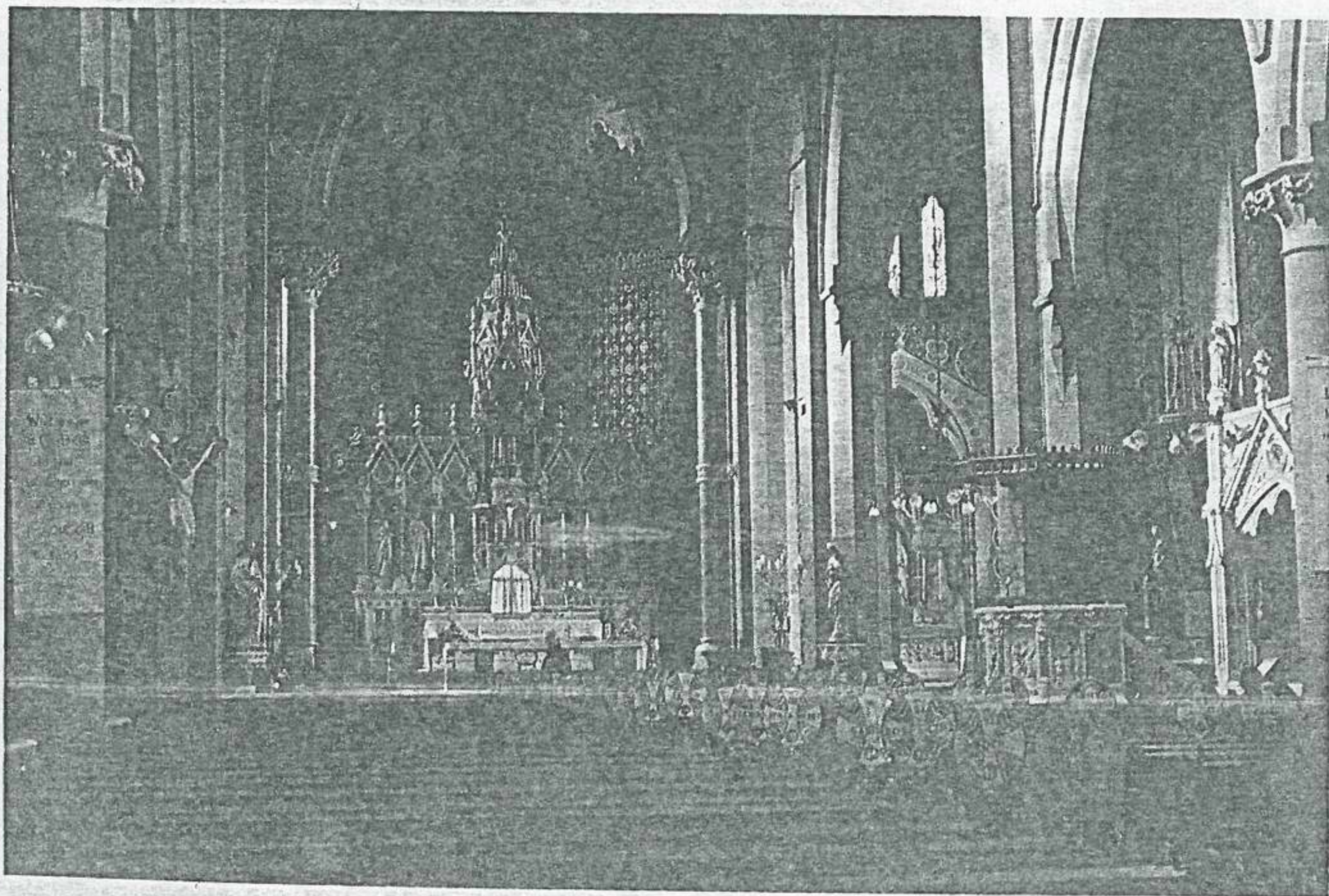
more ornate in design than the main building, yet its integration in the general plan is happily achieved.

The Cathedral, which was first opened for public worship in July, 1861, was consecrated in June, 1894. The old Church of St. John was built in 1753. Its site was between the present Cathedral and the adjoining presbytery.

The Cathedral houses two of Ireland's most remarkable ecclesiastical possessions, the Mitre and Crozier of Bishop Conor O'Dea, made in 1418; the only Medieval art treasures remaining in their ancient custody in Ireland. They are magnificently ornamented with cast figures, enamel and jewels and the Mitre is signed with the name of the craftsman who made them, Thomas O'Carryd.

### THE SARSFIELD MEMORIAL

In the grounds of St. John's Cathedral Presbytery is the statue of Patrick Sarsfield, defender of Limerick in the sieges of 1690 and 1691. Though the project to erect the statue began in 1845, it was not until 1891 that the statue was finally executed by John Lawlor of Dublin, who was also responsible for the "Engineering" group on the Albert Memorial in London.



High Altar, Redemptorist Church, Mount St. Alphonsus.