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Choir in Gotham Structure Will Seat 1,500 Persons—English Edifice Over a Block Long—The Paris Cathedral Is to Cost \$5,000,000.

In each of the three great capitals of the world a splendid cathedral is being built. All of the gorgeous edifices are near completion, and for each it is claimed that it will be "the finest in the world." New York, London and Paris are the cities to which reference is made. The Episcopal cathedral of St. John the Divine in the first named city will represent when finished an expenditure of at least \$1,000,000 and



CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN.

probably a great deal more. The choir alone of this beautiful structure would be esteemed a great architectural undertaking. It is 154 feet long, 92 feet wide and 150 feet from the floor to the ridge of the roof, with seating capacity for 1,500 persons. To support this six granite piers have been built. These are twenty-eight feet long by twelve feet wide and twenty feet high, set on solid beds of concrete averaging twenty feet in depth. On these rests the floor of the choir, which is about thirty feet above the level of Morningside drive. Eight mammoth monolithic pillars, next to the largest stones ever quarried, are to surround three sides of the altar. The stones have been taken from the quarry at Vinalhaven. Each stone is 54 feet 6 inches long, with an average diameter of six feet and a weight of more than 100 tons. The total cost of the eight when finally in position will be over \$200,000.



CATHEDRAL AT WESTMINSTER.

Only one structure in the world contains single stones surpassing or even remotely approaching these in size and cost. It is the Cathedral of St. Isaac at St. Petersburg, the facade of which is supported by monoliths of sixty feet in length and seven feet in diameter. Some of the monuments and windows in the cathedral will be among the finest of their kind in the world.

London's new cathedral is to be at Westminster. For some years now it has been in course of erection, and the scaffolding still surrounds portions of the mighty edifice. The cathedral is some 350 feet long and about 100 feet wide, rather wider than that at Canterbury. The style of architecture is early Christian Byzantine, similar to that in which St. Sophia at Constantinople is built. Although the shell of the building will first be completed, it will be some time before the finishing touches to the edifice are made. The interior of the cathedral when complete will de-



SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL.

serve the adjective "magnificent." The walls of the nave will pictorially illustrate the history of the Roman Catholic Church in Britain from the earliest times down to the end of the nineteenth century. The first site for the cathedral was purchased in 1833 by the late Cardinal Manning for \$175,500, but after a time the site was changed for that on which the present structure stands, although another \$100,000 had

to be raised in addition. Altogether, when the foundation stone was laid in 1895, over \$375,000 had been promised in subscriptions, but that figure was by no means sufficient.

May Cost Five Millions.
It is estimated that the new cathedral at Paris—the Church of the Sacred Heart, to give the edifice its full title—by the time it is finished will have cost over \$5,000,000. It has been so long in building that it has been possible to raise this huge sum gradually, though a large proportion of it was given when the idea of its erection was first mooted. When France was defeated by Germany there were many who averred that it was due to the sins of the nation, and it was suggested that a monster cathedral should be put up as a token to succeeding generations that the French nation repented of its sins. When the project was first mentioned it made a stir in the world, but there are thousands of people living today who do not know that the new cathedral of Paris is in reality a gorgeous penance.

The cathedral at Paris is a trifle larger than that at Westminster, and the indications are that it will be more beautiful. But Paris has a start of twenty years, and by that time London may outstrip its rival. Many churches in England have been built on the brick system. Children and adults are asked to pay three halfpence or twopence for a brick each week, and by that means large sums have been raised. The same plan has been adopted in Paris for raising the funds for the Church of the Sacred Heart, only, of course, stones were necessary instead of bricks. Big subscribers have their names, or their initials on the stones which they have subscribed.

Dead to Her Family.
A young Hindoo girl, a convert to Methodism, has been on a visit to Boston during the past few weeks. Her name is Soobooagamm Ammal, which is shortened to Sooboo for purposes of friendly conversation.

Sooboo is particularly interesting from the fact that she belongs to a high-caste family—a caste deemed superior in India to ordinary mortal association. The girl heard the mission preachers at first with contempt, but she ended by running away from her aristocratic home to the mission and said she had become a Christian. In leaving her gods behind her she left also her jewels.

First the angry and desperate father came to the mission and threatened to put Sooboo's new friends in jail for kidnapping. The girl was produced and elected to stay where she was. The father went away uttering the final word, "Outcast" which is a sentence of "death."
But soon the broken-hearted mother, who never goes forth and whose visit to the mission was contamination, came and pleaded with Sooboo to return to the home of those who had reared her and loved her. The girl declared her love for her mother, but refused to go back. Then came funeral services, as of on dead. The mother, called "accursed" because of her visit to the mission, could not be present, but walked 1,000 miles to the River Ganges and held mourning service there. Then she came home and wailed up the door of Sooboo's room.

They Have Hard Service.
The French foreign legion, which is again the subject of Parisian political gossip, offers about the hardest military service in the world, and no one who knows enters it until he has exhausted all other means of support or wishes to bury himself. Men of all nations are in its ranks, many of them hard characters, criminals and jail birds, and it is always sent by France to do the dirty work which that country naively does not choose to impose upon its own children.

Thus it has held the frontiers of the African colonies, where every now and then a post is cut to bits by a wild Arab tribe. The fever-infested portions of Cambodia and Indo-China, which Loti has described, have also been the scene of its exploits. The discipline, too, is most severe. Flogging is a daily occurrence and capital punishment is the result of the most trivial offenses. Thus the cases of insanity in the legion are of a much larger number than in any other branch of the French service. A physician who has been studying the insanity of the legionaries says that a majority of the cases are well developed when the men enlist, since few sane men would ever accept the conditions known to exist in this corps. He adds that in his opinion many men shot for breaches of discipline were not mentally responsible.

How Fans Were Invented.
The following Chinese legend accounts for the invention of the fan in a rather ingenious fashion: The beautiful Kan-Si, daughter of a powerful mandarin, was assisting at the feast of lanterns, when she became overpowered by the heat and was compelled to take off her mask. As it was against all rule and custom to expose her face, she held her mask before it and gently fluttered it to cool herself. The court ladies present noticed the movement, and in an instant 100 of them were waving their masks. From this incident, it is said, came the birth of the fan, and to-day it takes the place of the mask in that country.

Moisture Needed by Oak Trees.
An oak tree of average size, with 700,000 leaves, lifts from the earth into the air about 125 tons of water during the five months it is in leaf.
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