

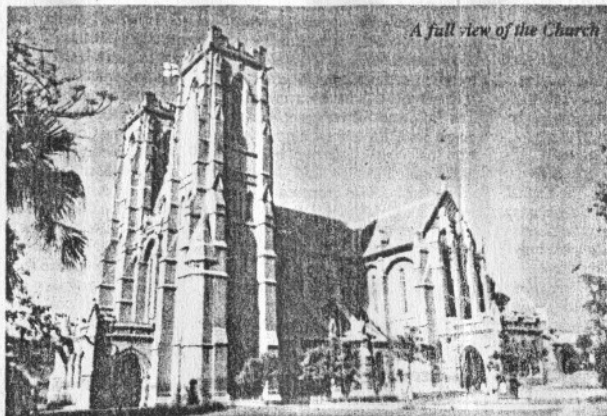
A landmark of Lahore

EMANUEL SARFRAZ gives a brief history of the Lahore Cathedral and characteristics that have made it one of the important historic structures of the Metropolitan

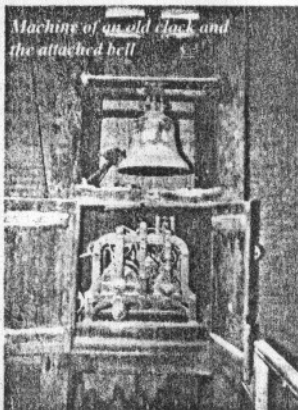
Located in the heart of City, Cathedral Church of Resurrection with its huge imposing structure has always been one of the big attractions of the metropolitan that is home to some of the grandest historical buildings of the world.

Recently 125th anniversary of the Lahore Diocese was celebrated. Now when there are more than 400 churches and worship places in Lahore, the Cathedral has not lost its old prominence. Many people still visit the church for prayers. In other words it is still a living church. The scribe has fond images in mind of walking as a toddler around the different sections of this church and then growing up in its shadow. Over the years the church has not changed but the sweet voices of many loved ones who sang and prayed there like those of his parents are no more. The scribe's great grandmother made a journey to the Cathedral barefoot from Narowal at the turn of the century like so many others who considered a visit here as a pilgrimage. Simple village folk from all parts of the country used to come and marvel at the grand edifice. There used to be a service for local Christians in the afternoon. People from remote areas would come to attend the mass that they termed as a pilgrimage. While analyzing the records and the material available on the Cathedral, the feeling of sharing the love for this structure with thousands of other people who had been associated with it and are no more grows strong. It must have brought solace to many and built confidence among others to face the challenges of life. For the Christians of today it is a living heritage, in whose richness they can venture out to serve the country.

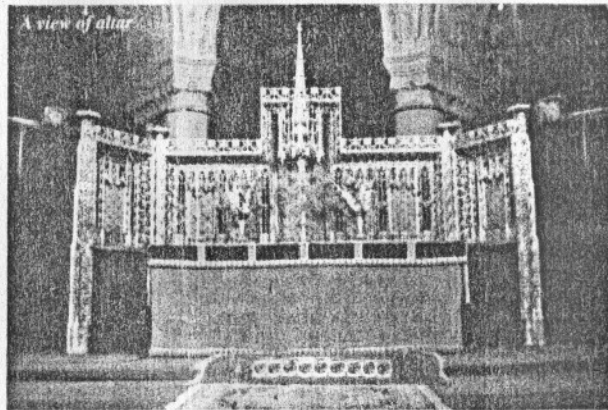
Cathedral was the dream of the first Bishop of Lahore Thomas Valpy French, who arrived in India in 1851 at the age of 26. Queen Victoria appointed him as the first Bishop of Lahore in 1877. He was consecrated Bishop at Westminster Abbey in London the same year. Bishop French, impressed by the splendour of Lahore's historical buildings, wanted to build a church worthy of the City. Sir Olrid Scott, a leading British architect of the time, designed the Cathedral but his son made the final design and supervised the construction. The estimated cost was 50,000 pounds sterling. The Punjab government contributed Rs 50,000 (approximately 4,500 pounds) but the rest was raised through voluntary donations. The construction that began in 1878 was completed in 1887. The Cathedral looked a lot different in those days. The two towers, vaulting and the marble floor were



A full view of the Church



Machining of an old clock and the attached bell



A view of altar

added later. The locals lovingly called it the "Kukar girja". There was a lantern tower in the centre lantern that fell down as a result of earthquake in 1911. It had a large weathercock at the top. Both the towers like other Cathedrals in Europe had spires on them. Though no written account was available the old church members said that a plane crashed into one of the spires during World War II and the other spire was demolished. A picture dated year 1900 shows the Cathedral with both spires. The church has been constructed from red brick and pink and gray sandstone in the gothic style. The sandstone was brought from a place called Taraki near Jhelum. The building is cruciform in design. Its total length is 226 feet with the nave that is 110 feet. Its height at the centre of vaulting is 65 feet and width across transepts is 152 feet. The pillar and arches are in gray stone. The walls are at least three feet thick. There are three porches of the church with big doors leading to inside the church.

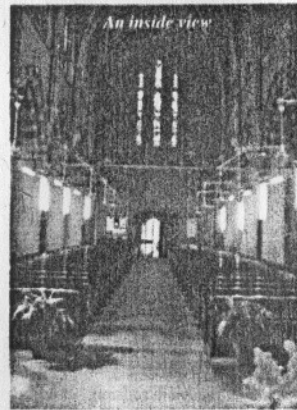
The porch on the West is commonly used for entrance. As one enters the first thing that one feels is the silence and quietness. The church was built at a higher ground and its premises have roads on all four sides. But even when there is heavy traffic on the roads outside the sounds are never heard inside the church building. The insect-proof building design also does not allow the dust to penetrate much even though the ventilation has been ensured throughout the building. There are rows of benches that were originally meant to accommodate 800 people. In the side corridors are chairs for seating of more people.

The walls on both sides are adorned with tablets put up in memory of renowned members of the church usually by their families and loved ones. These tablets mostly of brass and marble are all very shiny and have beautiful brief writings. There are tablets in memory of Sir Charles Aitchison, Sir Henry Lawrence and many other luminaries of

Lahore 31.3.02 Nation

19th and 20th century. On either side of the church as we walk straight towards the altar are 10 beautiful windows made by Leonard Walker. These were brought from England and at the time of their departure there was much criticism in the British press about the move because they are priceless pieces with the richness of the medieval type colours. They represent Christ with the children and various saints including St Francis of Assisi and St Eloy of Noyon. They were considered the best stained glass in the Gothic Cathedrals of England and France. If we walk in the middle passage and look behind on the high wall the beautiful stained glass depicting the resurrection of Christ with angels on either side can be seen. The whole structure glows if you visit it in the afternoon especially after three O'clock when the sunshine comes from the West. The view is best when the church lights

(name of ornamental screen behind an altar). There is also a memorial here that is 13 feet high and covers the whole wall. It has teak wood paneling on which are placed 14 bronzes bearing regimental crests. A case near the reredos carries the list of officers who served with Probyn's Horse from 1857 to 1947. A cross set in stone taken from the walls of Christ Church, Canterbury and replica of the 8th century cross was sent by the Arch Bishop of Canterbury and placed on the wall near reredos on 15th June, 1935. It is in the form of a brooch measuring two inches across. In the centre of each arm of the cross is sunk silver panel containing ornament of triangular shape known as a triquetra and formed of three interlocked lobes. It is very beautiful to look at. The Baptistry is in beneath the Bishop Lefroy Tower (North West). There is a stained glass above the Baptistry that glows when



An inside view

men known as blowers, one of whom Thomas Bliss died of heart attack while working the organ blower. A metal plaque in his memory is surmounted on a wall in the organ loft. Later an electric blower was fitted with a five-horse power motor, which supplied enough compressed air to make organ playable. The organ console has two manuals and a pedal board. The manuals are called Swell and Great. A foot pedal called the Swell pedal worked upon the pipes of the swell section. It used to give the effect of music coming from a room with the door closed and gradually swelling in sound when you opened the swell box. The Swell section has a rank of 500 pipes divided into sections of wood-wind, strings and brass sounds worked upon by drawing knobs called organ stops, each stop opening a rank of 60 pipes of different tone quality. The Pedal section has only three stops. A wooden section of Bourdon 8 feet, Flute 4 feet and the large deep sounding powerful Open Metal 32 feet. These are the large pipes seen from below; the largest "C" is 32 feet in length.

The bells of the Cathedral are worth mentioning. John Taylor & Co of Loughborough cast them in 1903. There are six of them in the South-West Tower and two, a small clock bell and a heavy swinging one in the North-West Tower. The large bell weighs about one ton. Originally the frame for the bells was made to accommodate eight but only six arrived from England.

The ringing room still contains an 8-bell Ellacombe apparatus. One has to go through the spiral stairway of stone and then through old wooden stairs which have sloped a little but are still very strong. Wearing leather shoes can be troublesome due to the sloping wooden planks of the ladders leading to the top of the tower. The view from the top is panoramic. On the way you will encounter only the eggs of birds, which are quite in abundance. Narrow passages connect both the towers. The view from the open stairway in the middle of the church building is breathtaking.

In the top floor of the North West tower there is an out of order clock of 1862 with a big clock bell hung on top of the clock case. The bell has radial angular canons from which it is hung. Rust has found its way all over this valuable piece of 19th century engineering. A cross that once surmounted the dome of the Anarkali Tomb, where there used to be St James Church that was consecrated on January 24th, 1857 has been placed in a small ground beside the Cathedral.

Hundreds of people worship at the church but this scribe believes most have not bothered to explore the building and some of the information would be new for many people.

Bishop French wrote, "What are the walls without the words of power and love and truth re-echoed from them?" The church is the congregation or the people. The Christian schools, colleges and hospitals in most of the cities, towns and some rural areas that serve the nation today all had their beginning whose foundation was inspired by people of this Cathedral. It continues to be a living church even today.

—Pictures by Zahid Bashir

sun shines from behind in the afternoon.

The pipe organ at the Cathedral installed in the organ loft in 1894 is no longer working but has no other parallel in the country. Mr Griffin James Hussain played the organ from December 1968 till April 1979. He says he found it to be an exhilarating experience from the angle of being a musician. He started off as the choirboy in 1960 and rose to be appointed as assistant organist in 1968 and later as honorary organist. He gives a brief historical account which is as following: The pipe organ was first played upon on 15th January 1895 and as recorded by the historian Mr MA Latif and others could be heard as far away as the Lahore Railway Station. William Hill & Sons installed the pipe organ normally known as Hill organ in musical jargon for a sum of 500 pounds. The large pedal section pipes were a later addition in 1914 by Constable and Co, London, when electricity was installed. Originally the organ bellows were hand blown by stock

inside are switched off.

The Bishops corner near the archway leading into the Lady's chapel has beautiful tablets in memory of the first three Bishops. The tiny Taxila cross of the third century AD is on the right side of the entrance to the chapel. The whole chapel is bathed in orange light in the early afternoon due to the filtered light pouring in through stained glass windows. There are seven circular trefoil windows in the ambulatory but they do not allow much light to pass through. There is beautiful carving on the pillars and arches in the sanctuary and the choir stands. The wood for choir stands and pews was donated by the Maharaja of Kashmir. Near the pulpit are the faldstools used by King George and the Queen Mary at the Delhi Darbar on December 10, 1911. The priests use them during service. The altar has a regal look. Behind the altar minutely carved teakwood with gold tapestry look magnificent.

On the northern transept is a reredos