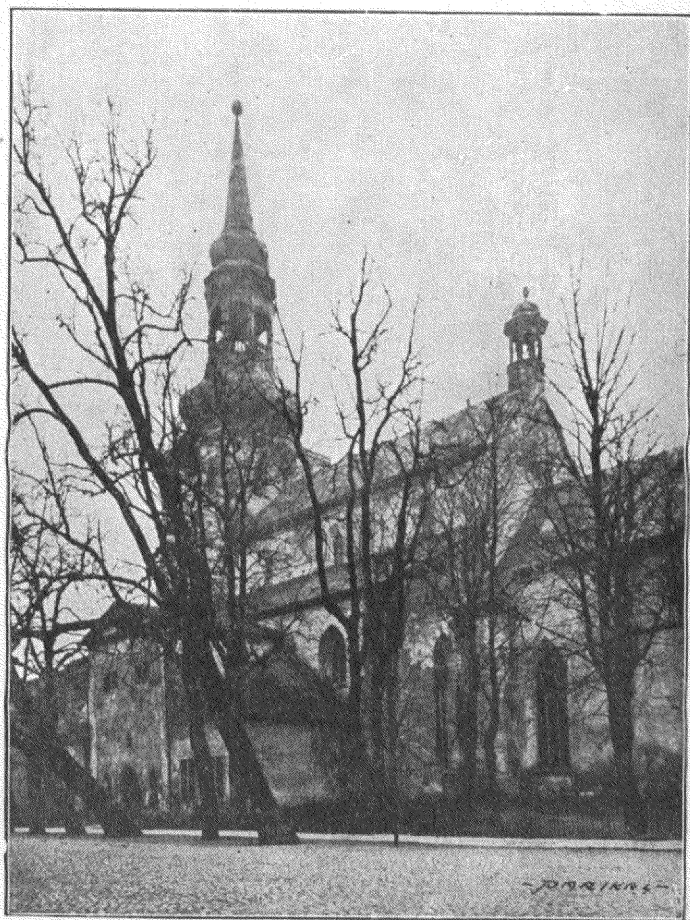
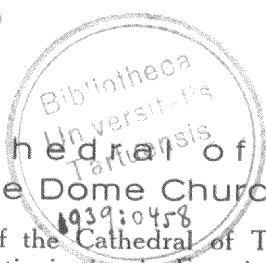


The Cathedral

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THE DOME CHURCH



The Cathedral of Tallinn. The Dome Church.

The foundation of the Cathedral of Tallinn dates from the earliest period of christianisation in Estonia. In 1219 the Danes invaded the country not far from where modern Tallinn is situated, and conquered what was then one of the chief Estonian settlements. The Cathedral was begun not long after this event, according to Professor Sten Karling, by Dominican friars from Ribe (Ripen) ¹⁾ in 1229. As early as 1240 we find Voldemar II



The late Bishop Jakob Kukk.

1) „Zur Baugeschichte der Domkirche zu Tallinn“. Published by the Institute of the History of Arts at Tartu University. III Tartu 1937, p. 238.

of Denmark (1202—1241) styling the newly founded church "matrix ecclesiae" — the Mother Church — of Estonia.

The building of the church as we see it today has been spread over a long period of years. The best preserved, and indeed the oldest, parts of the church are the apse and chancel.



The present Bishop H. B. Rahamägi D. D.

From time to time fires have ravaged the Cathedral; two, the first on May 11, 1433, the second on June 6th, 1684, doing considerable damage. Indeed, the latter also destroyed that part of the lower town nearest to the Cathedral hill. After each outbreak the Cathedral was restored. It is of interest to note

that Charles XI of Sweden, on June 30th, 1684, inaugurated a national subscription fund throughout his country for the restoration of the Church after the fire. It was at this time that the great reconstruction work, which lasted for over a century, was begun.

The most essential work was done first. A temporary roof was built, and the entire Guild of Carpenters of the city worked at new seats, which enabled Divine Service to recommence only two and half years later, on Christmas Day 1686. The work went on.



Minister of the Dome Church, Rev. Kurt Saarse, M. D.

There are various annexes in the form of chapels, which date back to the time before the fires. Until then, however, there had been two low towers, one to the east at the junction of the chancel and nave, the other at the extreme east end. Under the reconstruction scheme a comparatively high steeple was planned at the west end. The scheme, however, met with difficulties.

In 1696 a tax was levied on the sailors to provide lacking funds, since the steeple would be of great use to them in navigation at sea.

The lack of money again became serious, and in 1700 all work was brought to a stand-still owing to the outbreak of the Northern War.

Work on the Church was not begun again until the second half of the eighteenth century, when the present steeple was erected under the direction of the architect Mr Tiersch, who started construction in 1778, and concluded it, one gathers from the date on the weather cock, in 1779. This latter date is



The Sanctuary.

important as it marks the end of this long period of reconstruction, which gave the Cathedral its present form.

The most recent extensive repairs took place in 1926, when electricity was installed, and in 1936, when large exterior repairs were carried out.

The Cathedral of Tallinn is a treble-aisled basilica. On the northern side the vestry is situated to the east of Ramm's Chapel,

so called from the tomb of Thomas von Ramm (17th cent.) which it contains. The south side of the Church consists of a number of annexes, the most westerly of which is a chapel dating from the Middle Ages, now used as a side entrance. Next to it is what was once the Room of the Consistory, now the Parish Room



The Organ.

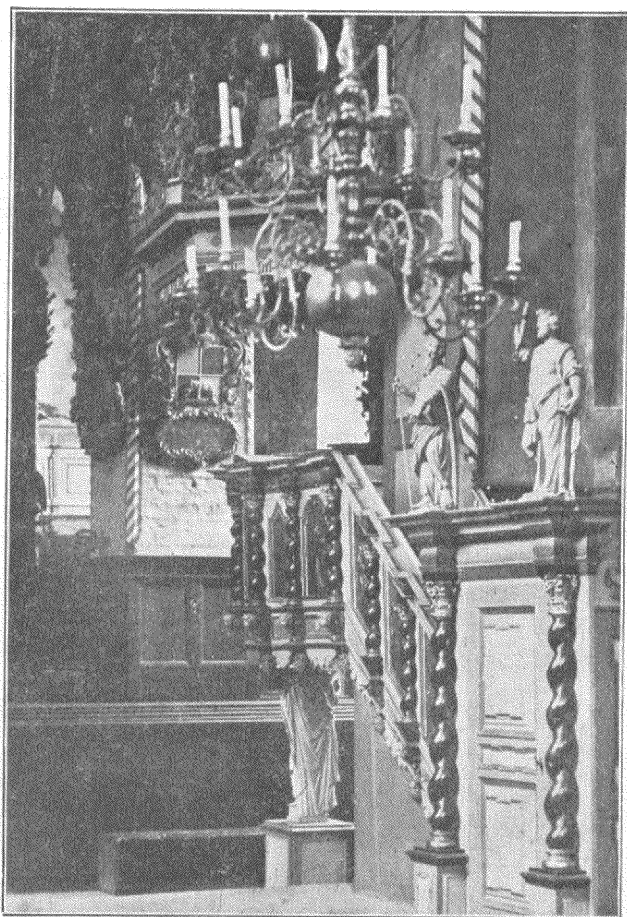
of the Cathedral Congregation. Situated next to it is a chapel now used as a passage from the main doorway, and still more to the east, the Fersen Chapel, which derives its name from the tomb of Otto Wilhelm von Fersen.

The altar and pulpit are the work of the eighteenth century sculptor Christian Ackermann. Formerly the reedos consisted of two paintings, the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, both by

Ernst Wilhelm Londicer. The present altar-piece by Professor Eduard von Gebhardt, was painted in 1881.

The organ, one of the best in Estonia, is the work of Ladegast, built in Berlin in 1878, and thoroughly repaired in 1914.

The Cathedral contains a very large number of monuments.



The Pulpit.

To the right of the altar stands the oldest of these, the tomb of Pontus de la Gardie (d. Nov. 5th, 1585) and his wife Sophia Gyllenheim. It was designed by Arendt Passer. The monument of the Swedish General, Carl Heinrichson von Horn (d. May 16th, 1601) is also by the same sculptor. To the left of the altar rises the monument to the Swedish Court Marshal, Oloff Ryning, and beside it the tomb of the Cavalry Captain, Caspar von Tiesenhausen and his wife Märta Oxenstjerna. Here also is the monu-



The Bishop's Private Chapel.

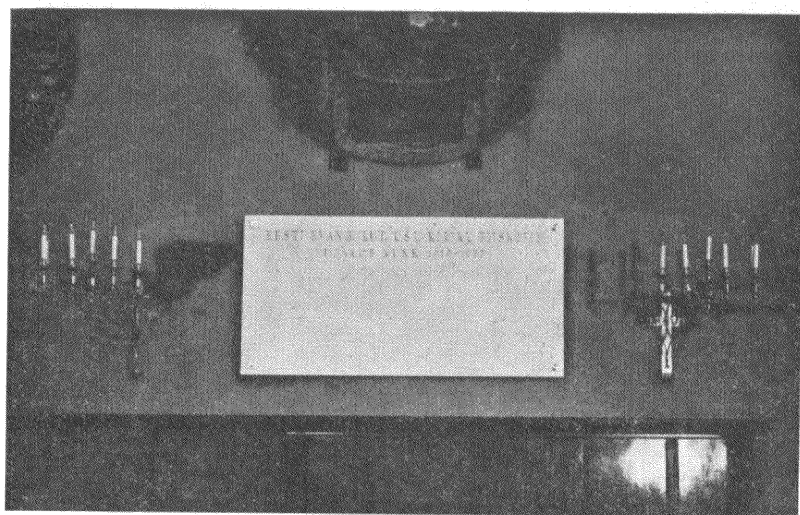


The Parish Room.

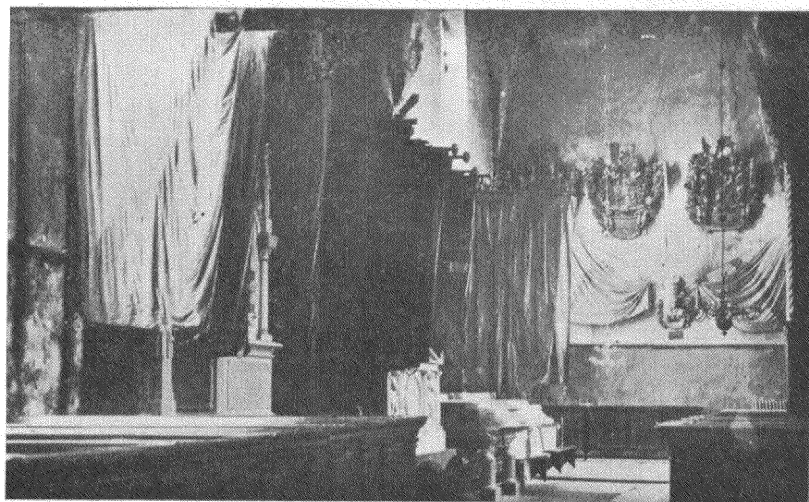
ment of Ferdinand von Tiesenhausen (d. 1805) who died of wounds received at the Battle of Austerlitz.

Beginning at the east end of the north side the visitor will see the last resting place of Otto Reinhold von Taube; Baron

Maydel and his wife, Margarethe Oxe; the tomb of Admiral Samuel Griegh (1735—1788); the first Russian to sail round the world, Adam Juhan Krusenstern and his wife Julie Taube.



The Memorial to the Bishops.



Foreign Standards in the Northern Aisle.

Since the seventeenth down to the present century, coats of arms have been placed in the Church.

The Cathedral has two bells, the smaller bearing the name Salvator, the larger, Mary.

Down the ages the Cathedral of Tallinn has been the Mother Church of the country. In it Catholic priests once preached their sermons, and it resisted the Reformation longer than any other



The Tomb of Pontus de la Gardie.

church of the city, for although the Reformation reached Tallinn in 1524, Catholic services were held here until 1561, that is, until the beginning of Swedish rule. Since that time the Cathedral has been the seat of a Protestant Head of Church.

In Independent Estonia the Dome Church is the Cathedral of the Bishop of Estonia, who is also the Rector of the recently formed (1927) Cathedral parish.



Ex bibl. univ. Tart.