## GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

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Gloucester Cathedral by H. D. M. Spence

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H. D. M. SPENCE

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### Gloucester Cathedral



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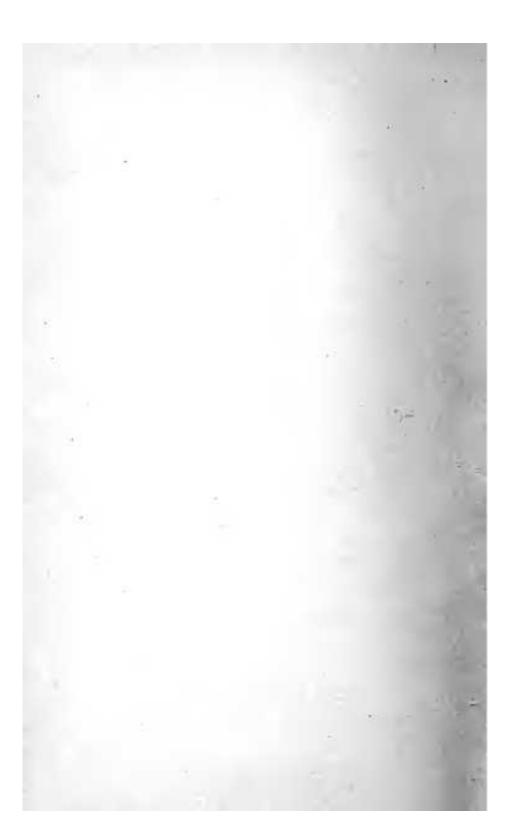
### By

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SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

### Gloucester Cathedral

A STRANGER gazing on the solemn beauty of Gloucester Cathedral, who knew nothing previously of its story, would hesitate before he called it a great Norman church. The lordly Perpendicular tower, if less vast than the mighty mid-tower of Lincoln—that grandest of our English towers —is certainly more graceful. The long line of Decorated windows looking into the college green, the huge choir window, the matchless Lady Chapel at the east end telling of the closing year of the fifteenth century—all these prominent features would indicate rather a Perpendicular and Decorated than a Norman pile.

#### Gloucester Cathedral

Only, when the stranger began to look more closely into the details of the exterior of the great church, he would see signs of an older school of thought. When he examined the coronet of chapels surrounding the soaring choir, or marked the tall towers flanking the transept, "Surely," he would say, "the Norman builders have done these." But he would hesitate before pronouncing it a Norman church till he passed through the south porch, the principal entrance.

Let us accompany him there. The porch itself is of Perpendicular architecture, rich with panelled tracery and sculptured figures. The great doors of the church are remarkable, much older evidently than the elaborate stone framework in which they are set. These doors are noble examples of Norman wood and iron work, coloured with that delicate and tender hue which only many centuries of use can give. The doors of the south porch rank high among the very ancient doors of England.

