

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649743629

Gloucester Cathedral by H. D. M. Spence

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

H. D. M. SPENCE

**GLOUCESTER
CATHEDRAL**

Gloucester
Cathedral



Cathedral from the North-West

Gloucester Cathedral

By

The Very Rev.
H. D. M. Spence, D.D.

Dean of Gloucester

Illustrated by
Herbert Railton

London: Isbister & Co. Ltd.
15 & 16 Tavistock Street Covent Garden

MDCCCXCVII





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.

