

**SOUTHWELL MINSTER; AN ACCOUNT  
OF THE COLLEGIATE AND  
CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF  
SOUTHWELL, ARCHITECTURAL,  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL**

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Southwell Minster; An Account of the Collegiate and Cathedral Church of Southwell,  
Architectural, Archaeological and Historical by Greville Mairis Livett

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Southwell, Lincolnshire 1843

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JOHN WHITTINGHAM, QUEEN STREET.

1883.

*Young* *Wotton* *Wotton* *Wotton*

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## P R E F A C E .

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No apology need be offered for the appearance of this little work at a time when Southwell is in the minds of all who have the welfare of our Church at heart. It has occupied the leisure of the writer for some months, and he only regrets that time and distance have combined to prevent his working out the subject as thoroughly as he wished. Probably it would not have been undertaken but for the labours in the same field of Mr. Dimock, the editor of the *Magna Vita S. Hugonis* in the series of the Master of the Rolls, and for some years a Vicar Choral of the Collegiate Church of Southwell. Mr. Dimock, however, confined his attention to the fabric and its history, so that for materials for the history of the College of Secular Canons the writer has had to look elsewhere. MSS. in the British Museum and the Public Record Office have been consulted with advantage, together with the State Papers and such books of reference as came to hand. But the Chartas granted to the Canons by the Archbishops of York, and the Statutes of Queen Elizabeth, have been the chief sources of information. They are preserved in a MS. belonging to the Church, entitled *The Statutes*, and printed both in Dugdale's *Monasticon* and in the Appendix to Dickenson's *History of the Antiquities of Southwell*. The latter work, which first appeared in 1787, is to be read with caution, its chief value lying in the Appendix. The author was the son of a Vicar-general of the College, and himself a chorister. Other local histories, one by Shilton, published in 1818, and a third by Clarke and Killpack in 1838, are little more than abridgments of Mr. Dickenson's work. The Church was despoiled of all its muniments and early records during the troubles of the 16th and 17th centuries, and the only MS. of any importance that has come down to us besides *The Statutes*



is the *Registrum Album* or White Book of Southwell. The writer has had no opportunity of consulting this MS., but it seems to have yielded all its treasures to the industry of Mr. Dickenson and Mr. Dimock successively. A general history of our ancient Secular Colleges, which would form an interesting work, seems never to have been taken in hand, but many valuable hints have been gained from Mr. E. A. Freeman's Lectures on the *Cathedral Church of Wells*.

Special thanks are due to the Rev. R. F. Smith, not only for the use of his notes from the later *Chapter Records*, but also for his kind explanation of many difficult points, more especially historical. Also to Mr. Hamilton Browne, for his valuable help in correcting the proof-sheets of the architectural description of the fabric. The kindness must be acknowledged of Mr. Bloxam and Mr. James Parker for communicating information with regard to subjects on which experience has made them authorities. Throughout the work full reference is made in the foot-notes to the works of other writers in cases where their words or opinions are quoted in the text. The index is by no means a general one, being meant merely to facilitate reference to the descriptive parts of the book, and to direct attention to the more important points in the history of Southwell and its Canons. The drawings are most of them taken from photographs; these, with the plans, have been reproduced by Mr. Cowell's anastatic printing process. It only remains to add that, owing to the necessity of hastening forward the publication of the work, a number of errors have been allowed to remain in the text, only the most important of which have been corrected by the insertion of a list of *errata*.

*Spondon, Derby,*

*November, 1883.*

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