

ENGLISH ARCHITECTURE

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English Architecture by Thomas Dinham Atkinson

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THOMAS DINHAM ATKINSON

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ARCHITECTURE**

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BY
THOMAS DINHAM ATKINSON
ARCHITECT

WITH 200 ILLUSTRATIONS

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1904

TO
MY FATHER

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PREFACE

IT will be at once apparent that this little book deals with the mere elements—with what may be called the grammar—of the vast subject of English Architecture. The great imaginative characteristics of our architecture—its æsthetic and poetical qualities (I do not speak of Gothic architecture only) its shortcomings, its reflection of national character, the influences which shaped its course and led to its alternate rise and decline—these are questions which cannot well be dealt with in the summary fashion of the following pages. The book might, in fact, be more accurately called an account of English *building* rather than of English *architecture*, if indeed it were not impossible to separate the two.

The endeavour has been, first, to trace the gradual development of our architecture so far as to enable the reader “to discriminate the styles,” as Rickman has it; that is, to recognise approximately the date of any building he may visit; and then to give some account of the plan and arrangement of particular classes of buildings.

The illustrations have been drawn by myself from my own sketches, made during the last twenty years or so, except in a few instances where other sources are acknowledged. For the loan of drawings I am indebted to Professor G. Baldwin Brown, M.A., and to Mr. C. O. King. For permission to use illustrations I have to thank Mr. T. B. Batsford, Messrs. A. and C. Black, Mr. Reginald Blomfield, M.A., F.S.A., Mr. J. A. Gotch, Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, M.A., Messrs. Macmillan and Bowes, Mr. J. T. Micklethwaite, F.S.A., Messrs. Parker, Mr. C. R. Peers, M.A., F.S.A., Mr. E. S. Prior, M.A., and the respective Presidents and Councils of the Society of Antiquaries of London, of the Royal Archæological Institute, of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, and of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society.

I also very gratefully acknowledge the kindness of several friends who have helped me with the text and with the illustrations by most valuable advice and criticism, and by reading my manuscript and proofs.

T. D. A.

CAMBRIDGE,
Christmas, 1903.

INTRODUCTION

THE subject of English Architecture is so large that it will be necessary to confine the following sketch strictly within the limits—both geographical and chronological—imposed by the term. It will be impossible to attempt a review of Scottish architecture, with its strong national character and piquant French flavour, or of the art of Ireland, which in early days passed through a phase so interesting and far-reaching in its effects. So too with the work of our own country previous to Saxon times. The mighty structures of the Britons, still shrouded in mystery, and the elaborate buildings of the Romans about which we are now learning so much, are connected by so slight a thread with all that followed that the break may, for our present purpose, be considered as absolute.

It has been common to divide English medieval architecture into several distinct styles. But this is in many respects unfortunate, and, indeed, the very use of the word style, except as applied to the great periods, such as Romanesque, Gothic, and Renaissance, is apt to be misleading. The