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M.R. James (1862–1936) is probably best remembered as a writer of chilling ghost stories, but he was an outstanding scholar of medieval literature and palaeography, who served both as Provost of King's College, Cambridge, and as Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, and many of his stories reflect his academic background. First published in 1930, this volume contains a guide to many historical places of interest in the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk. James concentrates mainly on the medieval history of these counties, weaving fascinating details of personalities and daily life with surviving examples of churches, monasteries and manors. In this tour around the two counties, the history of rich monastic foundations such as Bury St Edmunds and Norwich is discussed together with lesser-known historical sites in a clearly written and richly illustrated volume, which remains a valuable source for medieval scholars and historians.

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Suffolk and Norfolk

A Perambulation of the Two Counties with Notices of Their History and Their Ancient Buildings

Montague Rhodes James

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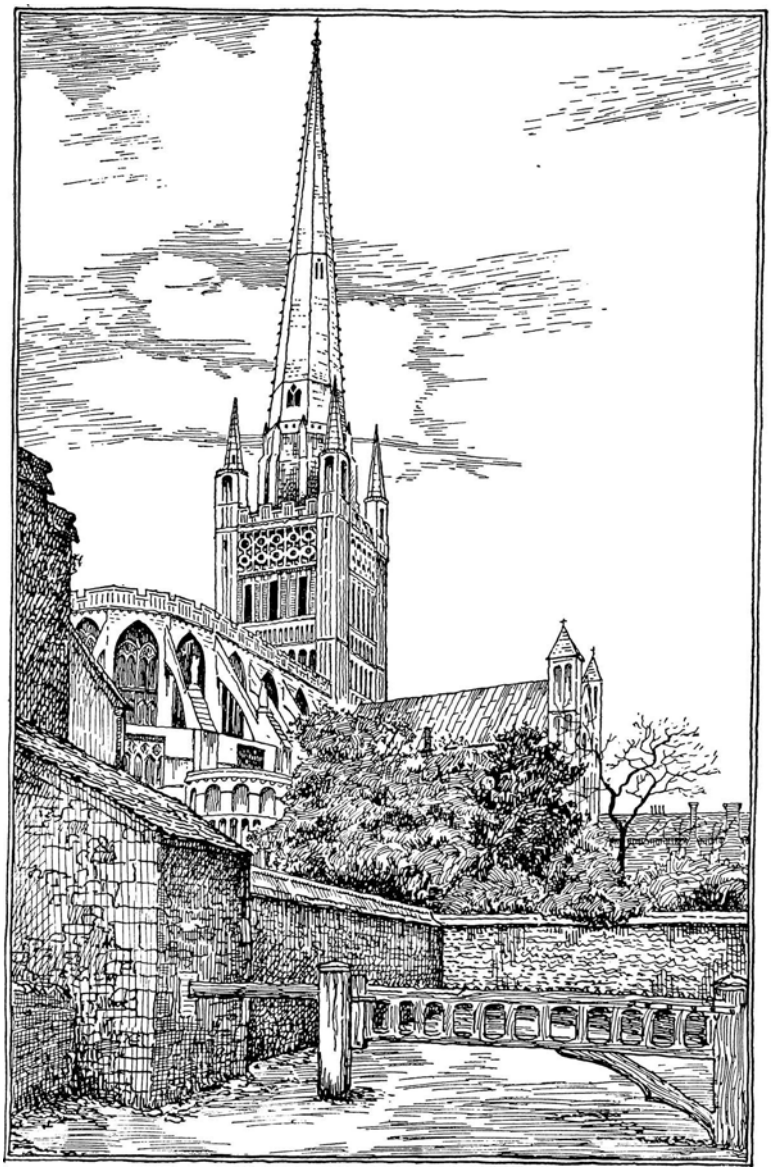

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SUFFOLK AND NORFOLK

A PERAMBULATION
OF THE TWO COUNTIES WITH
NOTICES OF THEIR HISTORY
AND THEIR ANCIENT BUILDINGS

by M. R. JAMES
O.M., LITT.D., F.B.A., F.S.A.
PROVOST OF ETON

Illustrated by
G. E. CHAMBERS, F.S.A.

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PREFACE

IN compiling this book I have made use largely of my own notes, taken at various times during the last fifty years, and considerably supplemented for the present purpose. But I do not pretend not to have drawn upon other people's work. Guide-books, in particular the Little Guides, *have been most useful, and the* Transactions *of the Archæological Societies of the two counties, though these I have not consulted as much as I might have done. My debts to Blomefield's* Norfolk *and to Clement Ingleby's* Supplement *thereto are evident; but a very special acknowledgment is due to Mr. H. R. Barker, of the Bury Museum, for his excellent gazetteer, as it may be called, of Suffolk, published at Bury in* 1907–9 *in two divisions, for* West *and* East Suffolk; *it contains photographs of every church in the county, and a succinct description of each parish. It has been invaluable to me, and often have I wished that someone in Norfolk had carried out a similar survey of that county. Other books that have helped me find mention in my text: there, too, I have tried to show my consciousness that much is wanting. Still, I believe that there are an appreciable number of facts newly recorded, and many newly brought together here. The Index is the work of Miss M. H. James.*

I have many early associations which endear these two great counties to me, and the attempt to expound some of their manifold attractions to those who live in them and those who visit them has been a very pleasant task.

Eton College,
February 1930.

M. R. JAMES.

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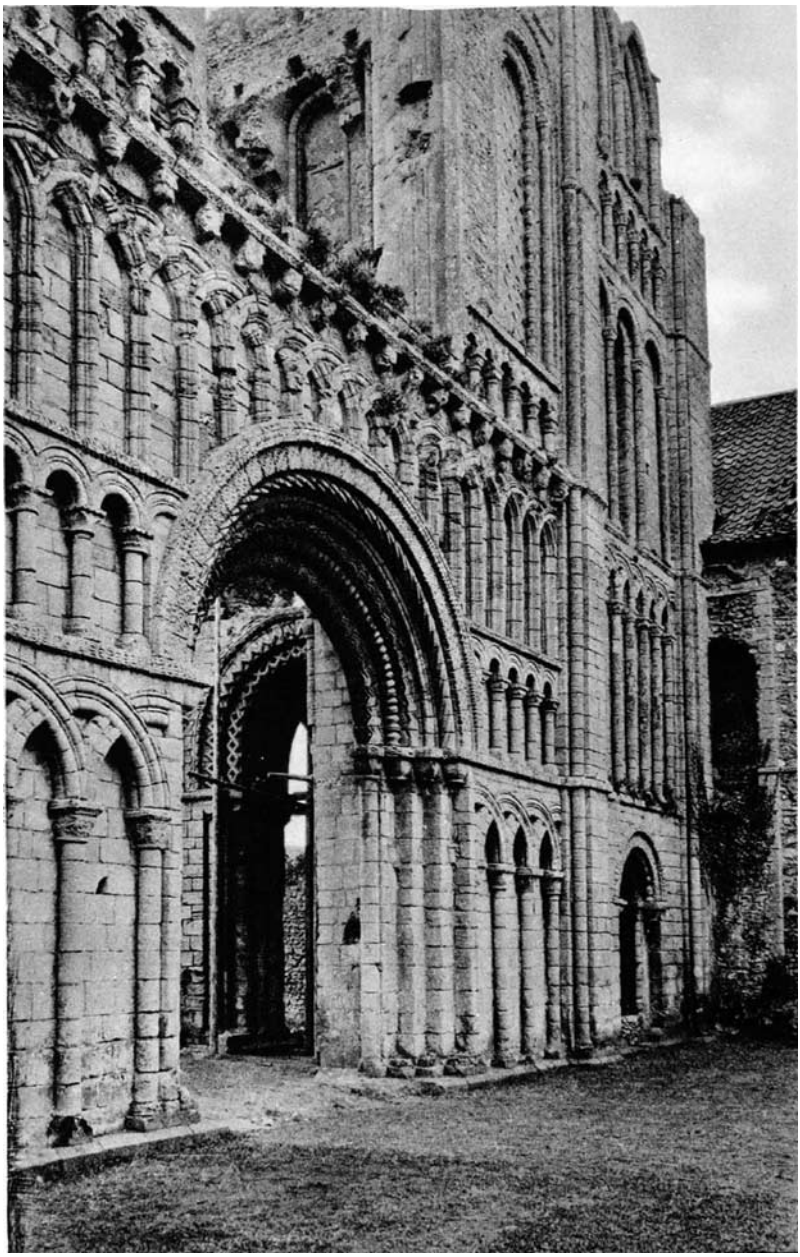

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