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978-1-107-60578-7 - The Historical Growth of the English Parish Church

A. Hamilton Thompson

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THE HISTORICAL GROWTH OF THE
ENGLISH PARISH CHURCH

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St Benet's, Cambridge: west tower from N.W.

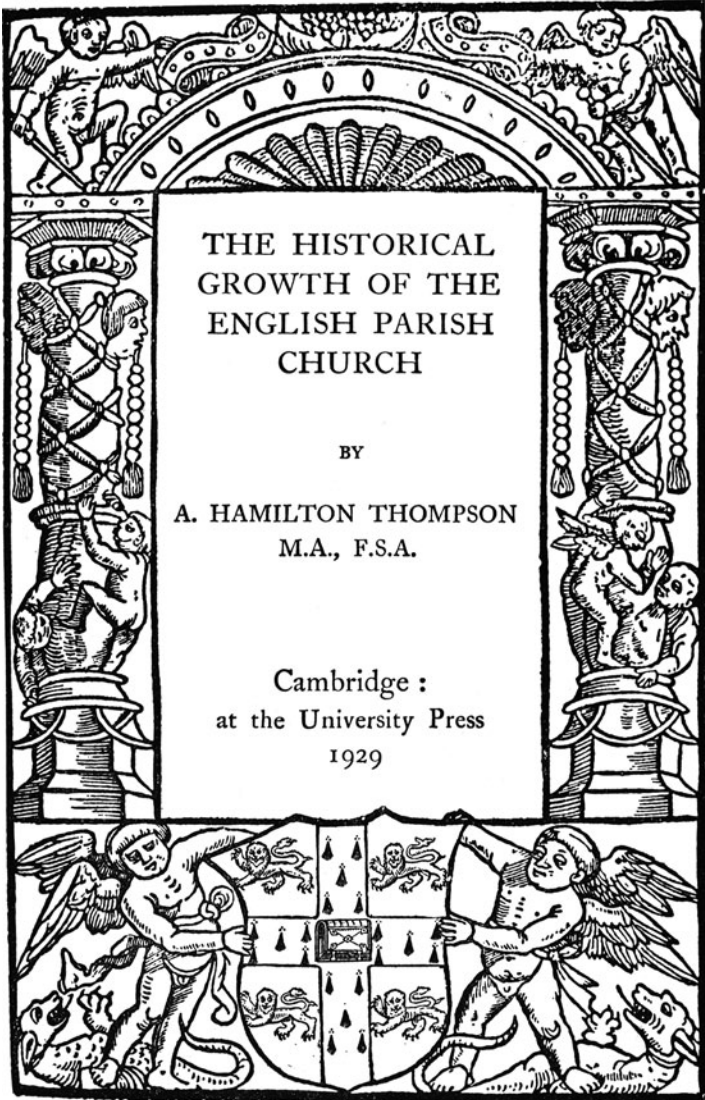
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PREFACE

THIS small book is intended to be a companion and complement to the writer's book in the same series on *The Ground Plan of the English Parish Church*. In that book the growth of the ground plan is treated with necessarily scanty reference to the circumstances to which, directly or indirectly, that growth is due. Some attempt is made in the present volume to supply an account of the historical conditions amid which our parish churches were built, to say something of the builders, and to remove the popular idea, still current even among educated people, that our architecture is mainly due to the profuse benefactions of the religious orders. A special chapter on chantry foundations, which played so large a part in the life of the later middle ages, follows the general historical chapter. The western tower, the porch, and the chancel are then described with more fulness than was possible in the description of the ground plan; and the decoration and furniture of the various parts of the church are treated in the closing chapter.

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PREFACE

The writer returns thanks for much help to his wife, to whom a sketch and the plans in the book, except that of Burford, are due; to the Rev. J. C. Cox, LL.D., F.S.A., and to the Rev. R. M. Serjeantson, M.A., F.S.A., who have read through his proofs, and provided him with many useful suggestions; to the editor of the *Archaeological Journal*, for the use of the plan of Burford church; and to Messrs C. C. Hodges, J. P. Gibson, F.S.A., E. Kennerell, and A. J. Loughton, for the loan of photographs.

A. H. T.

April, 1911.

NOTE TO SECOND EDITION

A few alterations have been made in the present edition. The writer desires to thank correspondents for numerous suggestions, some of which have been adopted. A special word of gratitude is due to Dr Cox and to Mr W. H. St John Hope, Litt.D., D.C.L., for valuable hints.

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