

This strikes one especially at Peterborough. In leaving the railway station you turn your back on the busy present and come face to face with the Middle Ages. There rises, like a mighty cliff, hollowed into three great arches, each eighty-one feet high, the west front of the cathedral—one of the most majestic in Europe. The bold tracery of towers and gables has been gnawed and worn by the storms of six hundred years. The vast groined arches are haunted with memories of the early Henrys and Edwards.

As one enters the western door a feeling of awe rests upon the soul. For four hundred and fifty feet stretches the Norman nave, vast and dim and full of solemn shadows. Milton etches with artist touch their majestic sublimity:—

“ But let my due feet never fail
 To walk the studious cloisters pale,
 And love the high embowèd roof,
 With antique pillars, massy proof,
 And storied windows, richly dight,
 Casting a dim religious light ;
 There let the pealing organ blow,
 To the full-voiced choir below.”

The older portion of the cathedral, which dates from before the year 1200, is, as will be seen from our initial cut, of Norman architecture, with its round arches, stout, Atlas-like columns and “dog-tooth” mouldings. A massy tower, a hundred and fifty feet high, crowns the intersection of the nave and transept. As great cracks in the wall gave evidence of the instability of the tower, it has recently been reconstructed at vast expense.

I was especially interested in the ruins of the old Benedictine Monastery, founded A.D. 660 by Saxulf, a Mercean thane. For many a rood they covered the ground with broken arches and shattered walls and columns, bearing witness to the wealth and constructive ability of the Benedictine brotherhood. The old Abbey was dedicated to St. Peter, whence the name of the town. A visit to his shrine was esteemed of equal merit with a pilgrimage to Rome.

The storms of seven hundred years have stained and weathered those Norman arches to a grim and hoary aspect, with which they frown down upon the ephemerides of to-day. Here may still be