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# Historical Memorials of Canterbury

*The Landing of Augustine; The Murder of Becket;  
Edward the Black Prince; Becket's Shrine*

ARTHUR PENRHYN STANLEY



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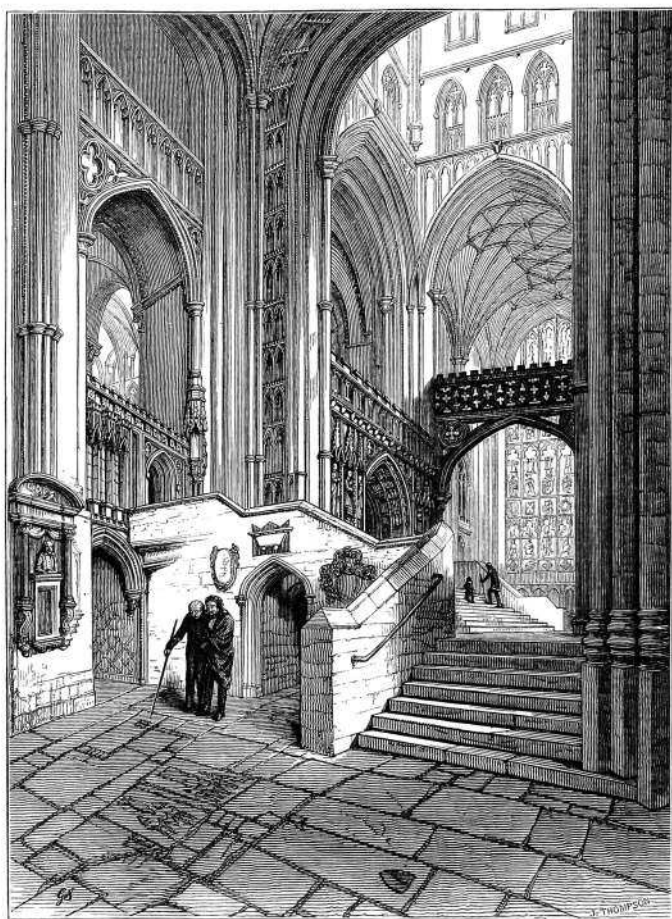
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THE TRANSEPT OF THE MARTYRDOM, CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL.

HISTORICAL  
MEMORIALS OF CANTERBURY.

THE LANDING OF AUGUSTINE,  
THE MURDER OF BECKET,  
EDWARD THE BLACK PRINCE,  
BECKET'S SHRINE.

BY ARTHUR P. STANLEY, M.A.,  
CANON OF CANTERBURY.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

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TO THE VENERABLE

BENJAMIN HARRISON,

ARCHDEACON OF MAIDSTONE AND CANON OF CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL,

IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF MUCH KINDNESS,

THESE SLIGHT MEMORIALS OF THE CITY AND CATHEDRAL  
WHICH HE HAS SO FAITHFULLY SERVED

ARE INSCRIBED WITH SINCERE RESPECT,

BY THE AUTHOR.



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## INTRODUCTION.

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THE following pages, written in intervals of leisure, taken from subjects of greater importance, have nothing to recommend them, except such instruction as may arise from an endeavour to connect topics of local interest with the general course of history. It appeared to me, on the one hand, that some additional details might be contributed to some of the most remarkable events in English history, by an almost necessary familiarity with the scenes on which those events took place; and, on the other hand, it seemed possible that a comparative stranger, fresh from other places and pursuits, might throw some new light on local antiquities even when they have been as well explored as those of Canterbury.

To these points I have endeavoured, as nearly as possible, to limit myself. Each of the four subjects which are here treated opens into much wider fields than can be entered upon, unless as parts of the general history of England. Each, also, if followed out in all their details, would require a more minute research than I am able to afford. But in each, I trust, something will be found which may not be altogether useless either to the antiquary or to the historian, who may wish to examine these events fully under their several aspects.

Other similar subjects might be added ; and, if time and opportunity should be granted, may perhaps be added at some future period. But the four here selected are so indisputably the most important in themselves, as well as the most closely connected with the history of Canterbury Cathedral, that I have not scrupled thus to bring them together apart from any topics of kindred but subordinate interest.

The first Essay is the substance of a lecture delivered before an institution at Canterbury in the present year, and necessarily partakes of a more popular character than so grave a subject as the conversion of England would naturally require. For the reasons above stated, I have abstained from entering on the more general questions which the event suggests,—the character and position of Gregory the Great,—the relation of the Anglo-Saxon to the British Church ; and the gradual spread of Christianity through the northern tribes of England. It is sufficient for my purpose if I have exhibited, in fuller detail than is usually found, the earliest tradition which England and Canterbury possessed on the origin of the mission of Augustine, and the successive steps by which that mission was established in Kent. And I have, in so doing, endeavoured to point out how forcibly these details illustrate the remote position which Britain then occupied in relation to the rest of the civilised world, and the traces which Roman civilisation then for the first time planted among our rude Saxon forefathers left in the country.

The second Essay, which originally appeared in the “Quarterly Review,” September 1853, has been since

## INTRODUCTION.

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considerably enlarged by additional information, contributed chiefly through the kindness of friends. Here again the general merits of the controversy between Henry II. and Becket have been avoided ; and my object was simply to give the facts of its closing scene. For this, my residence at Canterbury provided special advantages ; and the narrative purposes to embrace every detail which tends to place the transaction in a more perspicuous light. In order to simplify the number of references to the numerous authorities I have sometimes contented myself with giving the chief authorities when they seemed sufficiently to guarantee the facts. Of the substantial correctness of the whole story, the remarkable coincidences between the several narratives, and again between the narratives and the actual localities, appear to me decisive proofs.

The third Essay was delivered as a lecture at Canterbury, in July, 1852. Although in point of time, it preceded the others, and was in part intended as an introduction to any future addresses or essays of a similar kind, I have removed it to a later place for the sake of harmonising it with the chronological order of the volume. The lecture stands nearly as it was delivered ; nor have I altered some allusions to our own time, which later events have rendered, strictly speaking, inapplicable, though, perhaps, in another point of view, more intelligible than when first written. Poitiers is not less interesting when seen in the light of Inkermann, and the French and English wars receive a fresh and happy illustration from the French and English alliance. There is, of course, little new that can be said of the Black Prince ; and my

chief concern was with the incidents which form his connexion with Canterbury. But, in the case of so remarkable a monument as his tomb and effigy in the Cathedral, a general sketch of the man was almost unavoidable. The account of his death and funeral has not, to my knowledge, been put together before.

The fourth Essay is the substance of two lectures delivered at Canterbury. The story of the Shrine of Becket was an almost necessary complement to the story of his murder; its connection with Chaucer's poem gives it a more than local interest; and it brings the history of the Cathedral down to the period of the Reformation. Some few particulars are new, and I have endeavoured to represent in this, most conspicuous instance, the rise, decline, and fall of a state of belief and practice now extinct in England, and only seen in modified forms on the Continent.

In the Appendix to the two last lectures will be found various original documents, most of them now published for the first time, from the archives of the Chapter of Canterbury. For this labour, as well as for much assistance and information in other parts of the volume, I am indebted to the kindness of my friend and relative, Mr. Albert Way. He is responsible only for his own contributions, but without his able and ready co-operation, I should hardly have ventured on a publication requiring more antiquarian knowledge and research than I could bestow upon it; and the valuable Notes which he has appended to supply this defect will, I trust, serve to perpetuate many pleasant recollections of his pilgrimages to Canterbury Cathedral.