

jealousy of the King, that he taunted some of his nobles for not revenging him on the overbearing prelate. Four barons, therefore, on the 29th of December, 1170, attacked the archbishop while he was celebrating evening service in the cathedral. He declined to protect himself by "turning the church into a castle,"



SCENE OF BECKET'S MURDER, CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL.

and while kneeling at the altar was cruelly slain. For nearly four hundred years his tomb was a shrine to which pilgrimages were made from many lands. Chaucer, the father of English poetry, gives an account of these in his "Canterbury Pilgrims," and Tennyson has made the fate of Becket the subject of a magnificent dramatic poem. The stern old feudal castle now serves