

drag him out of the cathedral, but he shook them off. "In defence of the Church I am willing to die," he said. "Strike, strike!" Fitzurse cried, and blow after blow felled the prelate to the ground. "Into Thy hand, O Lord, I commend my

of horror through Christendom. The king, when he heard what had occurred at Canterbury, was filled with remorse for his hasty words, which had suggested though not authorized the deed. For forty days he did penance, fasting on bread



SCENE OF BECKET'S MURDER.

spirit," he ejaculated. Then one of the knights dealt him a blow so violent that his head was cleft in two, and the assailant's sword fell broken upon the marble pavement. "Let us be off," he said: "the man will never rise up again."

The brutal murder sent a thrill

and water: and on his return to England, three years later, he entered Canterbury barefoot, in the guise of a pilgrim, and suffered himself to be scourged by the monks on the scene of the martyrdom.

Becket's remains were placed by the monks in a marble sarcophagus