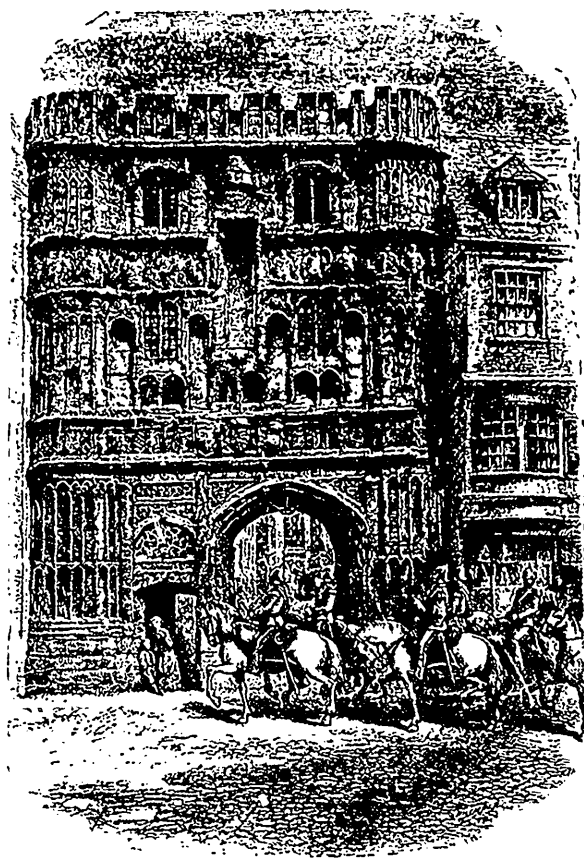


When the building is seen in all its grandeur, rising far above the trees and houses of the town—almost like a mountain of carved stone—dwarfing all surrounding objects, we realize that it is indeed worthy to be a mother-church of a great country. The old gray walls and circular towers, which still enclose part



PRECINCT GATE, CANTERBURY.

of the town, the narrow streets with their picturesque houses, and occasional fragments of ancient buildings—chief among which is the noble gateway of St. Augustine's Abbey—tell of a peaceful present and an unbroken continuity with the past, and fitly introduce us to the Precinct, or Christ Church Gate, an extremely rich and beautiful work of the early part of the sixteenth century. The Norman staircase in the outer court is a unique relic. This