

which would have been worked here before these venerable relics?

But it is better as it is. The bareness, the simplicity, and the unbroken peace suit better the tomb of this brave little mother of saints who fell asleep so long ago. Not the most sensuous rites of a semi-pagan ceremonial, not even the shadow rich traceries of Westminster Abbey, nor the majestic spaciousness of Saint Paul's could add to the sanctity of this crumbling dust which has rested here, hallowing and hallowed, for a millennium, awaiting the summons of the archangel's trumpet. Or so, at least, it seems to me. It may be that you do not feel with me on this point.

But one thing at any rate is certain. The significance and the sacredness of this lonely shrine, this austere and humble memorial, are so great as to dwarf into nothingness the other matters of interest in the church—and there are other interesting things, if you look about. A carved and painted symbol of some saint on the finial of a roof-beam here; an unexpected date cut into the wall there; a bit of old glass in this window; the traces of an obliterated inscription on that footworn flagstone, and so forth. There are even instances of a reckless modernity—a staring new pipe-organ on one side of you; a register for the enrollment of visitors' names (with the inevitable subscription box) on the other; but to one who has stood by Saint Wita's tomb and shed—though but for a moment—a thousand years from the heaped burden of Time, these slight matters have become mere uncongenial distractions.

Let us go out into the broad green of the churchyard, so deserted above, so populous below, where, in orderly rows, under simple, grassy mound or threatening bulk of mouldering stone, as the case may be, "the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."

The yews about the gate are standing doggedly still in sombre masses, but the feathery tops of the elms along the wall are waving gently in the little hesitating breeze which carries the breath of a million wild flowers. In the dusty lane