

After fifty years the remains of the saint were removed from his tomb in the crypt to the new shrine prepared for him at the eastern end of the cathedral. For centuries that shrine was the most venerated in England; the offerings made at it were of immense value, and it is described as being of unrivalled magnificence, costliness, and beauty.

great chests; "such," the annals record, "as six or seven strong men could no more than convey one of them out of the church." This "Defender of the Faith," had the Saint's name struck out of the calendar, and his bones burned and scattered.

Before leaving the cathedral we must visit the spacious crypt which



NORMAN DOOR, CANTERBURY.

It was covered with plates of pure gold set with large and beautifully sculptured gems of fabulous value. It was long one of the most popular pilgrimage shrines in Christendom, and is preserved in the imperishable verse of Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales." When the shrine was destroyed by order of Henry VIII. the confiscated treasures filled two

is in fact the oldest portion of the edifice. The custom of constructing a crypt seems to have been taken from the very early Christian churches in Rome, which were in many cases built over the tomb of a martyr, and therefore had a lower and an upper church, the former being used for divine service in days of persecution. The crypt of