

John Stow
The annales of England
London
1592

972

...

S. Austines abbey at Canterbury was suppressed, and the shrine & goods taken to the kings treasurie, as also the shrine of Thomas Becket in the priorie of Christ Church, was likewise taken to the kings vse. This shrine was builded about a mans height, all of stone, then vpwarde of tymber plain, within the which was a chest of yron, containing the bones of Thomas Becket, scul and al, with the wound of his death, and the peece cut out of his scull laide in the same wounde. These bones (by commaundement of the L. Cromwell) were then and there brent, the tymber worke of this shrine, on the outside, was couered with plates of gold, damasked with gold wire, which ground of golde was againe couered with iewels of golde, as rings 10. or 12. cramped with golde wier, into the saide grounde of golde, many of those rings hauing stones in them, brooches, images, and angels, and other precious stones, and great pearls, &c. The spoile of which shrine, in golde and precious stone, filled two great chestes, such as 6. or 8. stronge men could do no more then conuey one of them at once out of the Church. The monks of that church were commanded to change their habites, into the apparell of secular priests.

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<The background text printed grey is derived from the previous edition (Stow 1580:1013–14); beyond that it is derived from a private chronicle kept by another Londoner, Charles Wriothesley (1508–1562), to which (or to a copy of which) Stow had then just got access. But the description of the shrine is new in this edition (Stow 1592:972). Where Stow might have come across it I do not know. – C.F. November 2012.>

W. D. Hamilton (ed.), *A chronicle of England during the reigns of the Tudors . . . by Charles Wriothesley, Windsor herald*, vol. 1 (Camden Society, 1875).

<http://archive.org/stream/achronicleengla03hamigoog#page/n4/mode/2up>

J. Stow, *The chronicles of England* (London, 1580). STC 23333

J. Stow, *The annales of England* (London, 1592). STC 23334