

THE REMAINS OF CARMELITE BUILDINGS UPON THE
SITE OF "YE MARYGOLD" AT TEMPLE BAR.

By F. G. HILTON PRICE, D.R.S.A.

In the years 1878 and 1879 extensive excavations were made at Temple Bar for the purpose of building the new bank of Messrs. Child & Co. Operations were commenced in the Spring of 1878 by pulling down No. 2, Fleet Street, and a row of houses known as Child's Place. These buildings were erected in 1787 upon the site of the famous "Devil Tavern," which premises having been purchased by Messrs. Child & Co. were then demolished in order to make room for the buildings which were pulled down in 1878.

I have already stated in another place, *i.e.* before the London and Middlesex Archæological Society,¹ that very extensive cellarage extended under the whole of the area of Child's Place, the majority of which were undoubtedly occupied as cellars by the various vintners who kept the "Devil Tavern," and in which Simon Wadlow of immortal memory kept his fine wines. Wadlow has been immortalised by Ben Jonson, who called him Sim, The King of Skinkers. I may here remark that when these cellars were being cleared out previous to destruction, many old wine bottles of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were found buried in the sawdust, but the most interesting find of all was the discovery of a sound bottle holding about a pint of a rosy-coloured fluid—perhaps port. The bottle, which belongs to the eighteenth century by its shape, is coated over with a splendid iridescence, and the cork of it is apparently quite sound. This specimen is, I am pleased to say, preserved in my collection.

This cellar had a very mediæval appearance. It was evidently much older than the "Devil Tavern," and gave one the impression that it was a crypt of some more

¹ *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society*, Vol. VI, pp. 231-243.

ancient building long since demolished, and of which no history could be gleaned. A portion of this cellar had a pointed roof, which was supported by several large stone pillars. Some of these being quite sound were utilised by the architect, and worked in as supports to some of the new strong rooms of the bank. Three feet beneath the flooring of this old cellar a layer of encaustic tiles, having a green and yellow glaze, was discovered: unfortunately, none were preserved. At the further end, in a vaulted chamber, was a well. I remarked at the time "that it was highly probable that these cellars formed part of a building that existed on the site even before the days of the 'Devil Tavern,' and may have had some connection with the remains of arches which I propose to describe further on in this paper."²

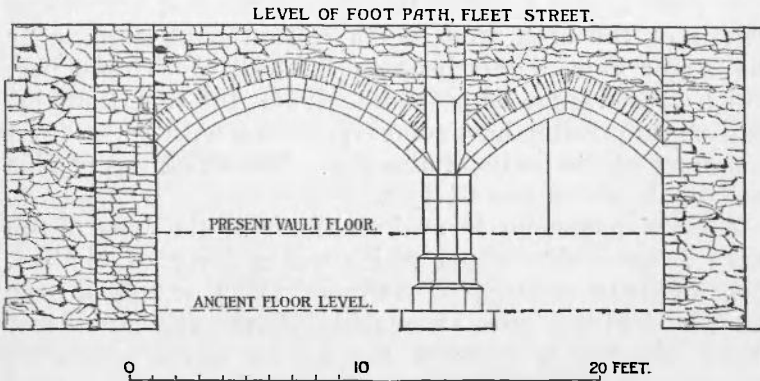
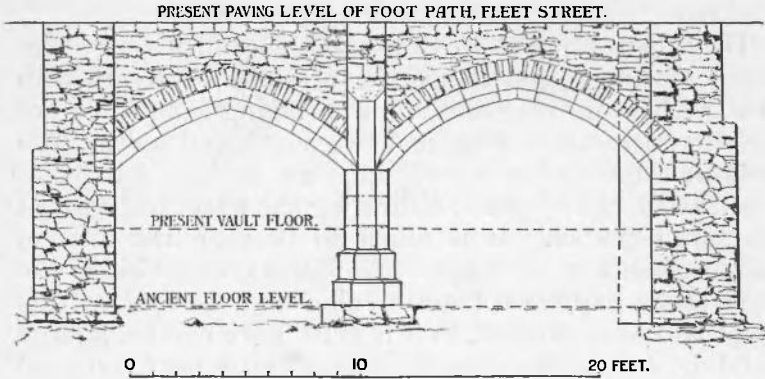
During the progress of excavation many cesspools were discovered containing a large quantity of sixteenth and seventeenth century tobacco pipes—a few of unusual length; many Bellarmines or Grey-beards, jugs of cream-coloured ware, having green glazed tops, belonging to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; also black glazed Tygs, stoneware pots of a variety of forms, ointment jars, &c. Many of the Bellarmines were plain; that is to say, without any bearded head, and were covered with a claret-coloured glaze. These may be assigned to the Fulham Pottery.

In making preparations for the new buildings, the workmen had recourse to underpinning the last house on the west side of Middle Temple Lane, which was then occupied by the under-porter of the Inn. In doing so they came upon a large quantity of human bones arranged in five regular rows. The labourers had to cut through this layer, with the result that they obtained more than a cartload of leg-bones (which were removed to Woking). The remainder of the skeletons they could not disturb, and they are still beneath the foundations of the house. I noted at the time that they laid north-east and south-west, and that nothing whatever was found with them.

The question arose, What could they have all been

¹ *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*, Vol. VI, pp. 231-243.

buried in one grave for, and in such a locality? It was undoubtedly an ancient interment, and probably belonged to a period when the Temple extended further westwards than it does at present. It was also surmised that this might have been the site of an early plague pit, which was unlikely, as that part of London was too much



VAULTED CELLARS UNDER MESSRS. CHILD'S BANK, FLEET STREET.

occupied for pits to be opened for that purpose—certainly as recently as the time of the last great plague year, 1665.

Beneath the bank itself, which was known by the sign of "Ye Marygold," were very extensive and ancient cellars, which from their massive structure and other circumstances were supposed to have belonged to a far earlier

building than the superstructure just demolished, which was not more than three centuries old.

Upon the removal of the superstructure, the builders cleared away all walls which were considered to be of more recent date, in order to develop the crypt-like arches which were found beneath the west side of Temple Bar, extending beneath the pavement and under the roadway.

They then exposed to view a large central pier composed of upper greensand (the firestone of Kent), with four arches of the same stone springing from it, two of which were east and west, and two, north and south. The ends of these arches rested upon an ancient wall composed of blocks of chalk, indicating the whole had formed a square chamber. It is much to be regretted that no measurements were taken. Architects who visited the excavations expressed their opinion that the roof of this crypt had been groined, that it must have carried a large building, and, further, that the date of the arches discovered must be of the thirteenth century.

A wall composed of blocks of chalk, varying in thickness from 2 feet 6 inches to 3 feet, extended the whole length of the area from north to south, beginning near the street immediately beneath the wall of Temple Bar, which caused some of us to imagine at the time that this wall might possibly have some connection with the western boundary of the limits of the city. The thickness of this wall on the south was $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

A brick pavement formed the floor at the base of the pier; a few inches above which was a layer of cinders, then a narrow stratum of concrete, which extended over the whole of the area excavated. Three and a-half feet above this was a layer of flat bricks which composed the floor of the old cellars of the bank. A shallow well $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep was found under these arches, which yielded a few pots of fourteenth and fifteenth century date.

A copper cauldron or cooking-pot, standing upon three stout legs, was discovered under a portion of the chalk wall. This I showed at the time to the late Sir Wollaston Franks, who pronounced it to be a vessel of the time of King John, which coincided with the supposed date of the

chalk walls, and which we had already imagined belonged to the thirteenth century.

At the time of this discovery I made all sorts of enquiries in the libraries of the Inns of Court with a view of ascertaining whether any of them had any records of their property extending over this site, but without any results.

Upon consulting Stow's *Survey of London* it will be observed that the Temple had larger possessions in the reign of Edward II: it was then called the New Temple, and extended into the district then known as Ficquettes Croft, which comprised, according to *London Past and Present*, by H. B. Wheatley, based upon P. Cunningham, all that plot of ground, about ten acres in extent, from the Bell, *i.e.* Bell Yard at Temple Bar to Portugal Street, lying in the Parishes of St. Clement's Danes and St. Dunstan's in the West, including Carey Street and the courts behind, Old and New Boswell Court, Portugal Street, Cook's Court, Serle Street, and part of Lincoln's Inn, New Square down to Chancery Lane end of Carey Street, formerly called Jackanapes Lane. This field was also called the Templar's Field.

This description of Ficquette's Croft brings it down to Fleet Street, on the north side of Temple Bar, but it apparently did not extend across the street on the south side; therefore we were fairly puzzled to know what buildings these crypts and interments could possibly belong to, and we continued to be in the dark until this year, when I received an intimation from my friend Mr. W. F. Noble which threw considerable light upon this matter. He knew that I was greatly interested in the history of "The Marygold," in Fleet Street, and during his researches into the old documents at the Record Office he came across some interesting and valuable deeds relating to the history of the site of "Ye Marygold."

The first communication received from him was the following abstract from Roll 40, Common Pleas Deeds enrolled in Recovery Roll for Easter Term in the seventh year of James I. :—

"This Indenture made the 24th day of April in the seventh year of King James the first [1610] Between Anthony Attwood of Addington in the County of Kent, Gentleman and Margaret his wife of the one

part and John Wainwright, Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London of the other part Witnessing for the sum of Three hundred pounds (£300) paid by the said John Wainwright the said Anthony Attwood and Margaret his wife grant bargain and sell 'All that their house or tenement called the Marygolde with thapptennances with all Cellars, Sollers Shoppes yardes backsides lights wages passages easem^{ts} profyts comodytyes emoluments &c' to the same belonging situate in the parish of St. Dunstons in the West in or nere fletee streate, London some tymes granted by Kinge Henry the eight to one Thomas Brooke and his heirs by Letters Patent dated at Westminster the 19th day of January in the 35th year of his reign and afterwards ayened from him the said Thomas Brooke to one Henry Leighe late of London, gent and to Isabell his wife. To have and to hold the same for ever and which premises are now in the tenure of Thomas Fretwell, Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London and were parcel of the possessions of the late dissolved Priory of Carmelite fryers in the suburbs of the City of London and sometimes in the tenure of Henrye Leighe and afterwards in the tenure of Robert Westwood and also the reversion &c."

Upon receipt of this interesting communication, which seemed at once to account for the existence of the crypts already mentioned, I wrote to Mr. Noble and begged him to give me further particulars of this valuable discovery, tracing the site of the premises back to a Carmelite Priory in 1241.

This request resulted in his writing me a most interesting paper which he entitled "Y^e Marygold, or a History of No. 1 Fleet Street in the City of London," based upon the information he had found in the Public Record Office. Commencing with the foundation of the Carmelite Friars in 1241, he traces the descent of the ownership of the site and premises down to the present year 1897, a period of 656 years. Considering the interesting and valuable character of this paper I feel I cannot do better than read you *verbatim* the first part of it, as it seems to clear up all doubts concerning the ancient crypts discovered at the time when the old foundations were dug out for building the new banking premises, and may also account for the presence of the human skeletons found in Child's Place, beneath the house by Middle Temple Lane, in 1878:—

"The site of the premises known at one time as 'the Marygold,' and being No. 1 Fleet Street, and now (1897) part of the banking-house of Messrs. Child & Co., originally was parcel of the possessions of the White Friars,¹ or, the Friars¹ of our Lady of Mount Carmel,

¹ *Sic.*

called 'Fratres beatæ Mariæ de Monte Carmeli,' first founded (saith John Bale) by Sir Ric. Gray, K^t. Ancestor to the Lord Gray of Codnor in the year 1241. King Edward I. gave to the Prior and Brethren of that House, a plot of ground in Fleet Street, whereupon to build their House; which was since re-edified or new builded, by Hugh Courtney, Earl of Devonshire, about the year 1350, the 24th of Edward iii." (Strype's *Stow's Survey*, Vol. I, p. 267.)

The Priory has handed down to us the name of Whitefriars Street, and it is but a short time since an ancient crypt was discovered in Britons Court, and which is said to have formed part of the buildings, and which changed hands by auction. It is not, however, the Alsatia I am writing the history of, but of one house only—now of considerable dimensions—known at one time as "The Marygold," and which site belonged to the Carmelite Friars, founded, as before said, in the year 1241.

From this date to the dissolution, the site of the premises formed part of its possessions. The first Ministers' Accounts I find in Her Majesty's Public Record Office is dated 31/2¹ Henry VIII, and under the heading "The Carmelite Friars"—

"And of xx^s of the farm of one tenement there in the tenure of Thomas Leigh, Esq., per annum payable at equal terms." (Roll 112, m. 57, P.R.O.).

I am of opinion this was the house on the site at that time, as it was in the tenure of the Leigh family. Other properties parcels of the possessions included "The Borys Hede" in Fleet Street, "The Bolt in Tonne," and "The Blake Swane."

It was not until the thirtieth of Henry VIII (1544) that particulars for grants were ordered to be made out for Thomas Broke. They are dated July 2nd of that year; and among the considerable property granted afterwards I find [Section 2, P.R.O.]—

"And all that tenement or house with shops, cellars, solars and all and singular their appurtenances situate adjacent and existing in fflete strete in the parish of St. Dunstan in the West in which John Onley lately inhabited and a piece of land of seven feet to the same tenement adjacent, demised to Henry Leigh or his assigns by indenture dated April 8th in the 25th Henry viii for 40 years payable at the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. iiiij^{li} (£4)."

¹ 1540-1.

By the following extract from the Auditor's (Thomas Mildemaie) Account, it is shown the then premises were fast going to decay, for he states in the same record—

“The tēnt aboue valued at iiiij^l wherin Harry Leigh dwelleth in ys sore indecaye and almoste in Rewyn in backe and fore pte of the same.”

In the same year, 35 Henry VIII, and dated January 19th, although the particulars are dated July 2nd, Letters Patent were given at Westminster to Thomas Broke, to him and his heirs for ever, for the sum of £384 2s., conveying the same premises with many others, and rendering to the King yearly for the messuage in the tenure of Henry Leigh 8s. [Pat. Roll 731, Mem. 22 (17), P.R.O.]. However, the same year, 35 Henry VIII, for 53s. paid in the hanaper a licence to alienate was given for sale to Henry Leigh; and dated February the 18th [Pat. Roll 739, Mem. 22 (33), P.R.O.] of among other properties—

“Also all that messuage with all & singular rights, members and appurtenances and all and singular solars, cellars and houses, edifices &c. in St. Dunstan in the West in flete Strete now or late in the occupation of John Onley and all that piece of land in latitude seven feet to the same messuage or tenement in the parish of St. Dunstan in the West in flete Strete now or late in the tenure of Henry Leigh or his assigns. To hold to him and Isabelle his wife.”

In Hilary Term, in the same year, we find Henry Lee and others levying a fine for the purchase of other property in St. Dunstan in the West. (Feet of Fines, P.R.O.).

Other tenants of the premises, which appear to have been divided into three messuages, were John Burde and Roger Mellie. The principal, or “Ye Marygold” proper—and that that was passed as that sign—no doubt was in the tenure of the owner Henry Leigh, for he is found assessed at 50s. on £50 value in St. Dunstan in the West in the fifth year of Elizabeth. (1563, P.R.O., Lay Subs., City of London, No. $\frac{145}{5}$).

The first mention found of “The Marygold” as a sign is in the inquisition taken at the Guildhall, in the City of London, on 7th July, in the tenth year of Queen Elizabeth (1568), after the death of Henry Leigh of London, gent., in which is recited various Letters Patent, including those to Thomas Broke. The premises are stated to be in the

tenure of Henry Leighe, John Burde, and Roger Mellie. When John Onley had it it seems to have had only one tenant, but divided after. The inquisition further recites—

"and which said message in the tenure of Henry Leighe is now called the Marigowlde and a piece of land of seven feet in the same parish of S^t. Dunstan in the West and adjacent to the message in the tenure of Henry Leighe had by the licence of alienation to him and his wife Isabelle."

Henry Leighe probably named these premises "The Marygold." On the 6th April, in the same year, he made his will, and in that he devised to Alice, wife of Gerard Leigh—

"all that my dwellinge house in flete streat called the Marigould with appurtenances &c."

Gerard Leigh died October 13th, 1563, before his father. Alice Leigh devised the premises to Edward Leigh, the son and heir of Gerard Leigh, which continued in his possession until his death in the thirty-second year of Elizabeth. Two years after his death an inquisition was taken at the Guildhall, in the City of London, on June 10th, in the thirty-fourth year of the same reign, and wherein he is described as a gentleman, and the jurors found he was seised of other properties in the City of London, including "The Marygold."

"The Marygold" was valued at £7 per annum. Edward Leigh died June 12th, 1590, and soon after the estate was divided. Elizabeth and Alice, two of the daughters of Garrett (Gerard) Leigh, died in the lifetime of Edward and Margerie. It next descended to his sisters Susan, Margaret, and Anne, 1594-1608; from them to Robert Atwood, 1608-1610; from Robert Atwood to Anthony Atwood, 1617; from Anthony Atwood to John Waynwright, 1632; John Waynwright to his daughter, Joane Dixon, in marriage with Robert; and from them to Elizabeth Hampden, widow; from her it passed, in 1676, to John Land; in 1697 he devised it to the Minister and Churchwardens of the Parish of St. Dunstan in the West; in 1875 Messrs. Child & Co. purchased the freehold from the trustees.

I consider that I have now read you all the principal extracts from the paper relating to the property of the

Carmelite Friars. The remainder of it, which is most interesting and valuable, consists of important extracts from deeds and other documents which prove the descent of ownership of the site in question from the year 1241 to 1897; but as this portion does not immediately concern the subject of this communication, I shall not further dwell upon it.

In conclusion, I think if we weigh the evidence we have heard about the crypts or arches with the old encaustic tile pavements, that it is fairly proven that they belong to a monastic building which formed part of the Carmelite Priory which formerly stood upon this site, and that the human bones discovered beneath the old house were those of the poorer brethren of the Carmelite Friars, and that the three-legged copper cauldron may have been used by them for cooking their dinners.