

North view in the inside of an ancient building, under a house adjoining the pumps at Aldgate.

*Sketched 1784, Engraved & Pub^d Jan. 1. 1789, by J. Carter
Hamilton s^r. Hyde Park Corner.*

J. ENSLIE & SONS, LONDON

* Enlarged fac-simile of an original impression,
in the possession of John E. Price, F.S.A.

portrait is at the College of Physicians;* and near it one to *Sir Robert Geffery*, Knt. Alderman, and sometime Lord Mayor, who died senior Alderman in 1703, æt. 91 years, which is kept in repair by the Iron-mongers' Company. On the north side of the Communion-table is a panel monument to *Sir Arthur Ingram*, an eminent Spanish merchant, who resided in New Ingram Court, in this parish, and died 1681; and on the south one to *Lionel Gatford*, rector, who died in 1715, and his two wives; and on two pillars are monuments to members of the family of *Hankey*, one on the west of the nave being to Thomas Hankey, who died in 1733.

The INNS in the parish (besides the *Star over the Hoop*) have been, *The Ram's Head*, *The Ipswich Arms*, once a good hostelry in Cullum Street, named after Sir Thomas; and the *Mitre*, where the parish feastings were wont to be held.

The PEWTERERS' COMPANY, who received their first charter 26th January, 13 Edward IV. (1474), had their Hall in Lime Street in this parish.

NOTES ON AN ANCIENT CRYPT WITHIN ALDGATE.

BY ALFRED WHITE, ESQ., F.L.S., F.S.A.

Recent improvements have rendered necessary the destruction of an interesting crypt, situate at the junction of Leadenhall Street and Fenchurch Street, a little west of the well where afterwards was erected Aldgate Pump.

This crypt does not appear to have been known to the historian John Stowe, although there is reason to suppose that he occupied the house immediately above it. He says that, During some commotions of the commons in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and other shires, in the reign of Edw^d VI. divers persons were apprehended and executed by the martial laws, amongst the which the Baylif of Romford, in Essex,

* Munk's *Roll of the Royal College of Physicians*, vol. i. p. 399.

was one. He was brought by the Sheriffs of London and the Knight Marshall to the well within Aldgate, there to be executed on a gibet set up that morning. He was executed upon the pavement of my door, where I then kept house." The existence of this crypt is noticed in Maitland's "London," and in "London and its Environs," printed for R. and J. Dodsley, 1761, vol. iv. p. 325, as, "St. Michael's, an ancient parochial chapel which stood at the end of Leadenhall Street, and the remains of this chapel are still to be seen under the corner house. They extend 36 feet from north to south, and 16 from east to west. There is still standing the Gothic arched roof, which is supported by handsome pillars, the whole built with square brick, chalk, and stone." Much the same notice appears in "History of London," &c., by Rev. John Entick, 1766, vol. i. p. 94, and in Maitland's "London," 1772, vol. ii. p. 780, where the crypt is said to be under the house of Mr. Gilpin, chemist. In "The Gentleman's Magazine" for April, 1789, page 293, is a communication on "The Chapel of St. Michael, near Aldgate." It is described as beneath the house of Mr. Relf, and is said to prove that the level of this part of the city has been greatly raised "since the foundation of this structure, the floor of which was evidently on a level with the common way." The writer has considered this to be the chapel instead of a crypt, the floor of which was always about ten feet below the street. At this time the building was filled with earth, "within two feet of the capitals of the pillars," and a view of the crypt is given in this condition. The length is said to be 48 feet, which shows that the south bay had been cleared since 1761. Its direction, north and south, is likewise noticed as "contrary to our mode of building sacred edifices." The writer (Investigator) has fallen into a great error in supposing 16 feet of the shafts to be buried. Another paper appears on this structure in the June number of "The Gentleman's Magazine" for 1789, page 495, in which "Palæophilus Londinensis" gives a good digest of what had been written on this building and the monastery of the Trinity, but supposes it was part of the buildings erected by Prior Norman in the 12th century. In this year (1789) a description was published by John Carter, with a very good view of the crypt, and this, enlarged, is given in Plate I., and shows the condition to be the same, so far as the partial filling with earth is concerned, as it was a few years since. In "The History and Survey of London," &c. by B. Lambert, 1806, vol. ii. p. 393, is the plate from "The Gentleman's Magazine" re-

peated, but no new matter is introduced. In "London and Middlesex, by Brayley, Nightingale, and Brewer, 1815, vol. iii. p. 248," the crypt is mentioned as a discovery of 1789, and the house above it is said to be occupied by Tipper and Fry, No. 71. In "The History and Antiquities of London," &c., by Thomas Allen, 1828, vol. iii. pp. 88-90, a view of the crypt is given, and we read that "the engraving shows the building in a restored state," but as this view has been drawn supposing that ten feet of earth (instead of two feet six inches) covered the floor of the building, it has given it too lofty a character. There is likewise a very correct plan, and a representation of one of the bosses at the intersection of the vaulting ribs. In the description of the building the position of the sills of the windows, with regard to the vault, is mentioned as a proof that it was always considerably underground, and the steps which formed the approach are likewise described. From the "absence of any religious or sacerdotal emblem appearing in the carvings, as well as the circumstance of the structure standing, in its longest proportions, north and south, it is not at all probable that it ever was a church, or the crypt of one," and the architectural knowledge of our author leads him to suggest that "it is probable that these remains are the workmanship of the latter part of the thirteenth century." "Londinia Illustrata," Robt. Wilkinson, 1822, vol. ii. contains a well executed engraving of this crypt, from a drawing by Mr. Shepherd, now in the possession of J. E. Gardner, Esq. This would lead us to suppose that the entire height of the structure was more than 20 feet, and this even is strengthened, so far as the drawing is concerned, by the introduction of the figures of two men, and in the description of the plate is, "but as the capitals of the pillars are at present only 4 feet above the floor, the altitude of the arches at first might have amounted to 18 feet."

In these several accounts of the crypt it is generally described as the remains of St. Michael's Church, and the only circumstances which are suggested against this view are, that the longest dimensions of the building is north and south, unlike ecclesiastical buildings, and that it is without any Christian emblem or device. These would be good reasons for doubt, but it will be more conclusive to show that St. Michael's Church stood at a considerable distance from this crypt at the western extremity of Aldgate Ward. There is in "Liber Dunthorn," which is a collection of copies of ancient deeds and other writings preserved in the Guildhall of London, an account in Latin of

the boundaries of the soke of the monastery of the Trinity, of which the following translation will be found in Strype's *Stowe* and other histories of London, and is a very fair rendering of the original: "We must know therefore how great the soke is, which hath such bounds. From the gate of Aldgate, as far as the gate of the Bailey of the Tower, called Cungate, and all Cheken Lane, towards Barking Church, as far as the churchyard, except one house nearer than the churchyard, and the journey is returned the same way, as far as the church of St. Olave; and then we come back by the street which goes to Coleman Church; then it goes forth towards Fenchurch, and so there is on this side our houses a lane, through which we went unto the house of Theobald FitzIvo, Alderman, which lane now is stopped because it had been suspected for thieves in the night: therefore, because a way was not open there, we come back again by a lane towards the church of St. Michael, and as far as Lime Street to the house of Richard Cavel. This, therefore, is our Inward Soke, and these are the bounds of it. This the Queen-Mother gave to us, with the gate of Aldgate. From Lime Street we go through the street by the church of St. Andrew's, as far as the chapel of St. Augustine upon the Wall; then as far as the gate of the churchyard. This is the circuit of our Inner Soke."

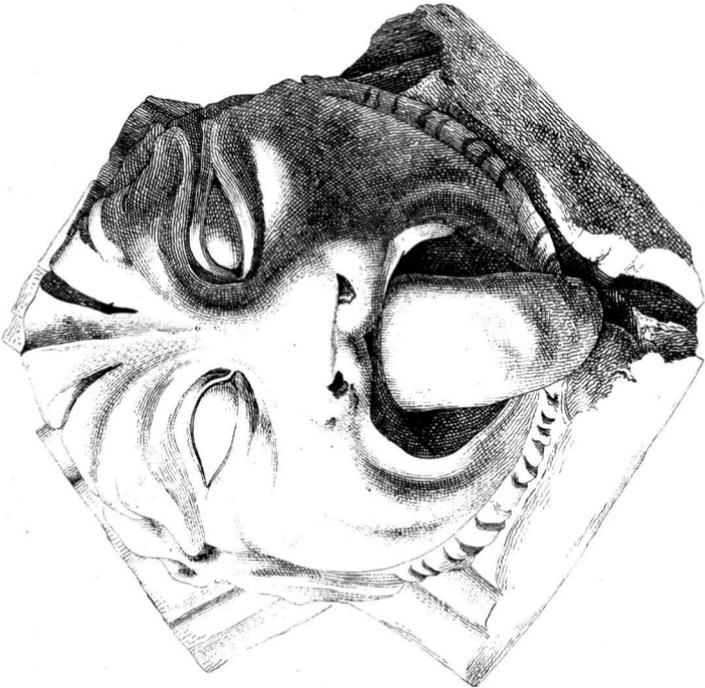
It will be seen that the bounds of this soke are nearly those of the ward of Aldgate at the present time. To clearly understand the position of the church of St. Michael, it will be well to follow the boundary, and give, where necessary, the present names of the places mentioned. It commences at Aldgate, and goes south along the course of London Wall (the wall now destroyed) until we come to one of the towers thereon, called then Cungate, and here it appears to go within one house of the great cemetery which was once attached to Allhallows, Barking. It then proceeds in a north-westerly course to the north end of Seething Lane by St. Olave's Church, and passes somewhat east to the church of St. Katherine-Coleman, and then along Fenchurch Street towards the church of St. Gabriel, which stood before the fire of 1666 in the middle of the street between Mark Lane and Mincing Lane just in the adjoining ward of Langbourne. From this point the route goes north by a lane towards Theobald FitzIvo's house, which lane must therefore have been situate on the west side of Ironmongers' Hall, and so towards that part of Lime Street which runs northward near the north end of Cullum Street: but, as this way

had been stopped, they return by a lane towards the church of St. Michael, and as far as Lime Street to the house of Richard Cavel. Thus the site of St. Michael's Church is brought within a very limited space, viz.: to the north of Fenchurch Street, to the east of Lime Street, and to the west of the present Ironmongers' Hall, or between Billiter Square and Lime Street Square. In Aggas's map of 1560, just at this point, an inclosure is shown with a cross in its centre; this is probably the yard of the church. It is of course quite useless to search in any existing history of London for mention of this church, as the churches of the parishes of St. Michael and the Holy Trinity were probably destroyed when Norman erected the priory of the Trinity in 1107, or by the Great Fire of 1135, which burned the priory. The date of the perambulation which we have used *must be* about the middle of the thirteenth century, as Theobald FitzIvo was alderman of the ward in 1264, or more than 300 years before the date of Stowe's history. These old churches may have existed as ruins in the thirteenth century. The church of St. Michael being thus placed in the west part of Aldgate Ward, instead of at the junction of Fenchurch Street and Leadenhall Street, over this crypt, we will proceed with the boundary of the soke, which is described as going along the northern portion of Lime Street, through the street (St. Mary Axe), by the church of St. Andrew (Undershaft), to St. Augustine's (Papey) which stood near London Wall at the end of St. Mary Axe, and then by the course of London Wall to the churchyard (of the Priory), which stood just west of Aldgate, from which point we started.

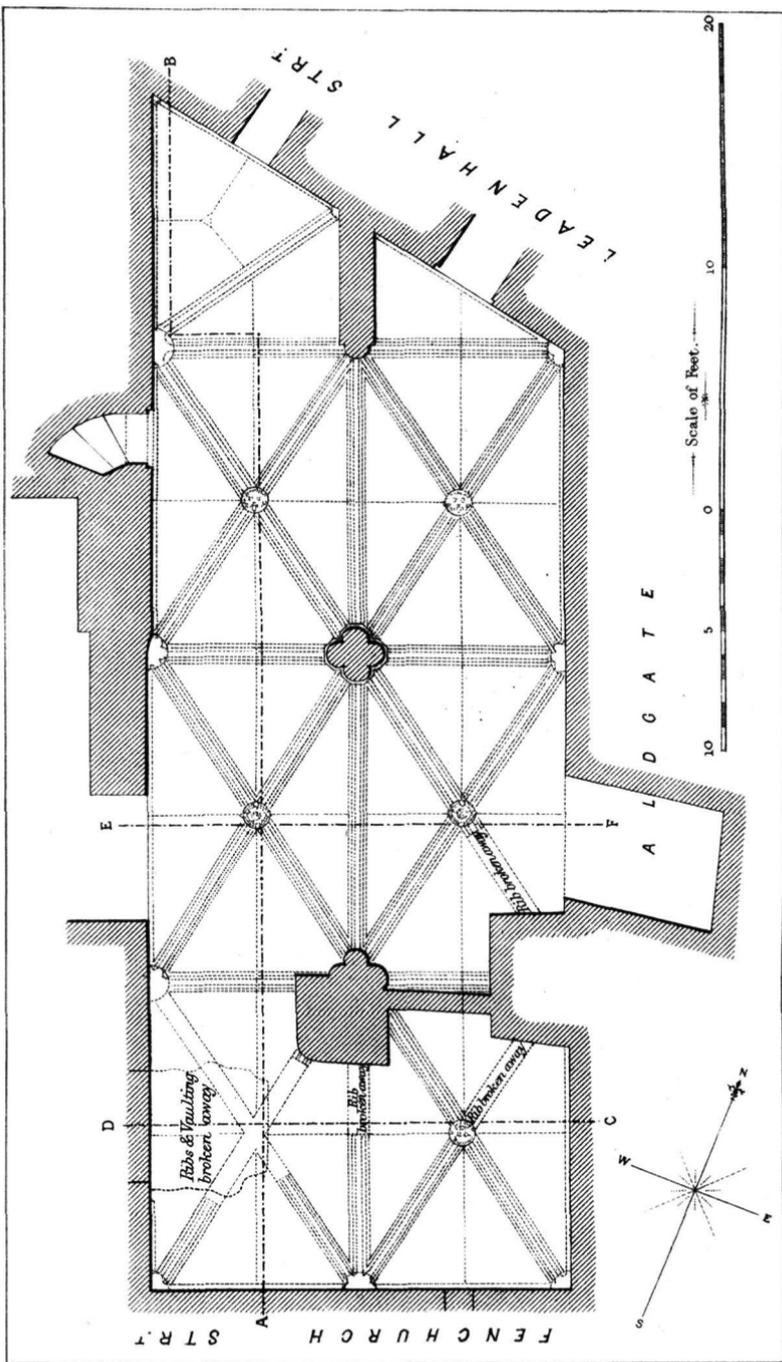
If this crypt is not any part of St. Michael's Church, for what purpose was it built? This is not readily determined. Such crypts have not frequently occurred in London, and it is unlike the usual basement of a private house of the middle ages. These are generally semi-cylindrical in form and were strengthened by broad ribs with bold chamfers. Such vaults of all periods are often found in London. In Cannon Street and Garlick Hill they existed of very large dimensions. It is not unlikely that some public building, either of the ward or the city, existed at this spot. The junction of these two important streets must at all times have been a place of great traffic, and one therefore well suited for the carrying out public acts. Such a view is supported by the execution mentioned by Stowe. Whatever was the superstructure it must have been irregular in form and not very large. The south part of the crypt consisted of two vaults separated

by columns, and in each vault were three bays with the diagonal and transverse vaulting-ribs, supported by two central columns with well-executed caps, and against the walls on corbels with grotesque carved heads. These three bays together were 36 feet 6 inches in length, with a breadth of 16 feet 6 inches (the part described previous to 1789), but the western wall was prolonged 12 feet, making the total length of this wall 48 feet 6 inches. Two irregular bays were thus formed at the north end, which were divided by a wall terminated by a semi-shaft and cap, which received the vaulting-ribs. At the meeting of the upper parts of the vaulting-ribs were six well-carved bosses, consisting of heads and foliage arranged about them in an uncommon manner. Two of these are illustrated in Plate II. The ribs were boldly moulded, as shown in the longitudinal and transverse sections. The central columns were formed of a cluster of four shafts, which together measured 2 feet 5 inches in diameter, and were 4 feet 2 inches long. The total height of the cap, column, and base was 5 feet 4 inches. The height from the level of the base of the columns to the bosses at the junction of the vaulting-ribs was 12 feet. The light appears to have been supplied by three windows, two being placed at the north end, and one in the east bay at the south end. They were about 2 feet across; the internal sill was about 8 feet 6 inches from the floor, and the external sill would be about level with the top of the inner part of the vaulting. The entrance was by a flight of steps on the west side in the most northern of the regular bays, and it entered the crypt under a pointed arch. Openings also existed in the next bays towards the south, but their character is uncertain.

The diameter of the central columns appears to have been the cause of much error formerly as to their height, for we see they were estimated at 10 feet and even more than that elevation. If we compare them with columns in similar positions it will not appear an extraordinary conclusion. The columns of Gerard's Hall crypt were but 1 foot in diameter, and the shaft alone was nearly six feet in height. It would, therefore, not be unreasonable to suppose that these columns of 2 feet 5 inches in diameter were much more than 5 feet 4 inches in height, including the caps and bases. It will now be necessary to compare this crypt with similar structures. Independent of its greatest length running from north to south, unlike most ecclesiastical structures, we have the division into two vaults. This is especially secular or domestic; indeed such an arrangement does not

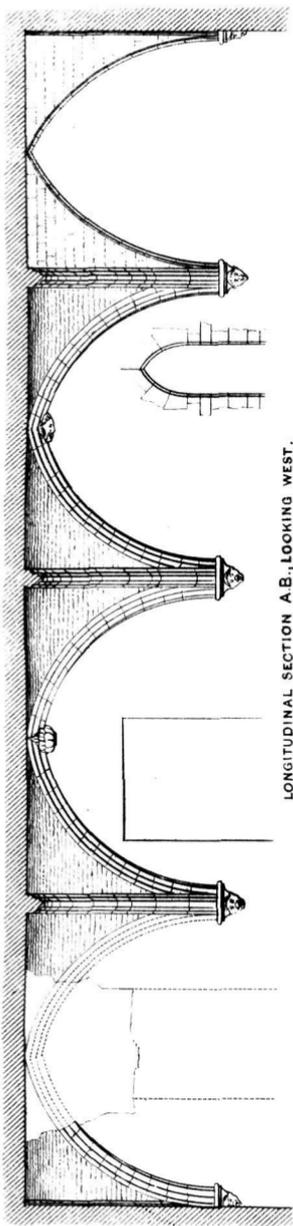


STONE BOSSES, CRYPT, ALDGATE.

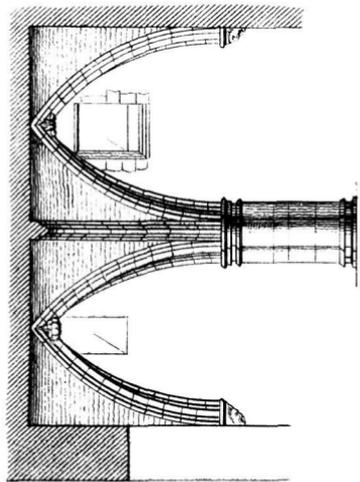


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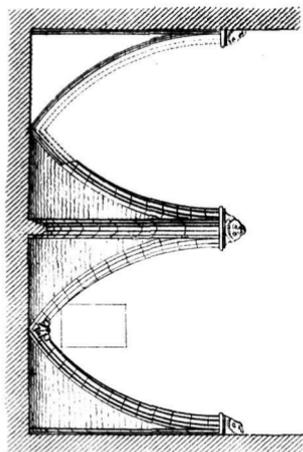
CRYPT, ALDGATE, AT JUNCTION OF LEADENHALL STREET AND FENCHURCH STREET.



LONGITUDINAL SECTION A.B., LOOKING WEST.



TRANSVERSE SECTION E.F., LOOKING NORTH



TRANSVERSE SECTION C.D., LOOKING SOUTH.

0 10 20 30 Feet

J. Emble & Sons 19, ...

CRYPT, ALDGATE,
AT JUNCTION OF LEADENHALL STREET AND FENCHURCH STREET.

usually occur in churches for more than four combined bays, but for other buildings this is the rule. Such was the plan of Gerard's Hall crypt, and Mr. C. Baily told you that two such crypts existed in Guildford, seven in Chester, and several at York, Bristol, and other places. Such was the plan at the Strangers' Hall at Canterbury, and of halls at Norwich, also of the crypt of South Wingfield Manor-house in Derbyshire, and in numerous other cases of domestic buildings. There are exceptions to this rule, and the most easy of access is the crypt under the east end of the Guildhall of London. Here are three vaults similar so far to the undercrofts of churches, but differing in having the vaults of equal span. This departure from the usual civil arrangement may have been determined by extent of span of the arch, for we find in South Wingfield Manor-house that an undercroft of about 36 feet is divided into two vaults of 18 feet span, but the 50 feet of Guildhall may have required three vaults. Mr. C. Baily has placed the period of the building of this crypt to the time of Richard the Second, and also remarked that the direction of the north and south walls proves that both Fenchurch Street and Leadenhall Street have since that time retained their present course.

It may be well to offer a few remarks on the parishes which existed at the erection of the priory of Christ Church or Trinity. This priory is said to have been built in the same place where Siredus sometime began to erect a church in honour of the Cross and of St. Mary Magdalen. This ancient church contributed 30 shillings to the dean and chapter of Waltham. The abbey church here is also dedicated to the Holy Cross, and when Matilda founded Christ Church or Trinity she gave to the church of Waltham a mill instead of this payment. But little is known of the building of Siredus, but Matilda's Priory is said to have occupied parts of the parishes of St. Mary Magdalen, St. Michael, St. Katherine, and the Blessed Trinity, which now was made but one parish of the Holy Trinity, and was in old time of the Holy Cross or Holy Rood parish. At this time, therefore, (1108,) the old parish of the Holy Rood had disappeared, and four parishes appear on its site. In the perambulation of the old soke of the priory we find the parishes of Coleman Church (St. Katherine), St. Michael, St. Andrew (Under-shaft), and of The Trinity (now St. James's, Duke's Place), but St. Mary Magdalen and Holy Rood are not mentioned. This loss of St. Mary Magdalen is not easily explained. Could the church of St. Andrew have been dedicated formerly to St. Mary Magdalen? Such

changes in dedication are known, and, even in this ward or soke, Stowe tells us that St. Katherine Coleman was called St. Katherine and All Saints.

This would make up all the parishes which are given at the several periods in this locality. The existence of St. Katherine Coleman and St. Katherine Cree as two distinct parishes adjoining is remarkable. The parish of St. Katherine Coleman belonged to the ancient establishment of St. Martin-le-Grand, and so remained until the Dissolution. Was it a part of this parish which was taken into the precinct of the Trinity? The inhabitants of the inclosed parish of St. Katherine at first used the priory church, but it was agreed afterwards that they should have a church erected, and use the priory church only at certain times. This would be what we might expect of a part of a parish detached at the establishment of the priory, but which desired to be released from the control of the prior, and to be a parish of itself, with its own church. We must not confound the parish of St. Mary Magdalen with a small parish of St. Mary the Virgin, St. Ursula, and the 11,000 Virgins. This was on the west side of St. Mary Axe, and belonged to the priory of St. Helen. The church was destroyed, and the parish united, by Edmund Grindal, Bishop of London, to St. Andrew Undershaft in the year 1561.
