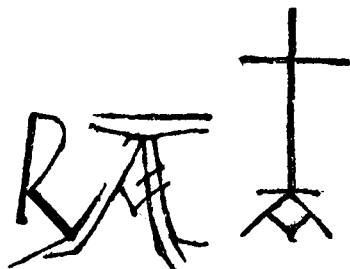


## THE OLD HALL OF LINCOLN'S INN.

THE old Hall of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, which was built at the latter end of the 15th century, suffered grievously at the hands of its restorers a hundred years or so ago. The devastating work which then took place is usually associated with the name of an Italian, Bernasconi, who succeeded in covering in the open roof with a vaulting of lath and plaster and hiding the exterior brickwork with a layer of stucco. Similarly he also disguised the original Tudor window; and this he did so effectively that their beauty was almost wholly concealed. Indeed during the last century and in this much alteration was effected, useful no doubt but carried out with little regard to sentiment or the claims of antiquity. To restore the Hall to something like its original condition seems to be the present aim of the Benchers. Their laudable endeavours commenced over a year ago—during 1925. Unfortunately the state of the structure was found to be so bad that nothing short of a demolition piece by piece of the greater portion of the Hall and a step-by-step rebuilding is being compelled. By the kindness of the Authorities, Mr. Edward Yates was enabled on behalf of our Society to photograph the Hall in September, 1926, while the work was in operation. Rather than wait for a full account of the restoration which it is hoped will appear in our *Transactions*, it is thought that Members will be glad to see a reproduction of some of the photographs. From them it will be gathered how the fire oriel windows had been shortened from their bases upward and how much had been lost by the concealment in plaster of the delicate tracery of the windows.

Although all the old material, it is understood, is to be re-utilized in its original position, the stones, beams, etc. having been marked for this purpose, shall we be able to say in the future that the restored building is that erected, *c.* 1489, during the first century's occupation of the area by the Honourable Society?



LINCOLN'S INN HALL; MASON'S MARK.  
EAST ORIEL.

Photograph No. 1 shows the interior of the east oriel; No. 2 an enlargement of the vaulting of the east oriel; No. 3, the interior of the west oriel; and No. 4 the lower portion of windows in the west oriel. A tracing by Mr. Sidney Toy of a photograph of the mason's mark which appears on the north flank of the east oriel is here given.

W.M.