

wall was about nine feet below the level of the street pavement.

An intelligent excavator informed us of the presence of Roman-walling which, at the corner of Birchin Lane, ran at an angle across the building. The doorway or entrance which was under construction was aligned with this wall at a distance back of six feet six inches. The direction of the wall can therefore be easily settled. The foreman in charge estimated its direction as being about 30 degrees to Cornhill. The workman said that the walling continued in either direction i.e. to the north-east and south-west. Its presence raises the interesting question as to the relation of this wall to the wall at the base of St. Peter, Cornhill, and its continuation in Gracechurch Street.

ROMAN LONDON; CORNHILL.

BY

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My final report regarding the Gracechurch Street excavations I propose to leave to a later date.

Meanwhile I beg to report that on passing down Cornhill on my return from abroad, on Monday the 23rd of January, 1923, I noticed that the shops 56/57 had during my absence, been pulled down. These are situated on the North side of St. Peter's, and obtaining admission, I was delighted to find the Roman wall which I had expected to find under the north wall of this church. However, instead of running with it, it comes out about half way down and then goes in a north-westerly and south easterly direction (305').

From the row of 2-in. Roman tiles up to the road level there are eight feet four inches. The wall is not yet clear and I fear will not be because at the West end adjoining the church porch there is a solid mass of masonry, about nine feet square. This has been built in three periods, the Roman,

wall crossing it diagonally, and here on the top of the Roman period is found four inches of earth.

Part of this mass is in chalk with semi-Roman mortar and a part is of a later period, with dark gray mortar but mixed up with pieces of Roman tiles, red with black cores, terracotta and yellow; there are also at the bottom pieces of Kentish rag and again at the top. I found there also the same class of work (in chalk) as was found on the north side of the great Roman wall in Gracechurch Street.

In addition to this, on the 24th of January, 1922, in company with Dr. Martin and Mr. Cater, I found another Roman wall about 14 ft. 6 ins. below the pavement at 36, Cornhill, running parallel with Cornhill.

From the foreman we obtained particulars of another wall going down to 24 feet 6 inches, that ran across the north-west corner of Birchin Lane, both of which we hope further to report upon at a later date.

The deeper foundations of these modern structures will continue to expose Roman work that previous excavations have not reached, and members ought to assist in every way in getting details of such. Any discoveries ought at once to be notified to our Secretary for prompt investigation.

I have been considering the connection between the Churches of St. Michael and St Peter, Cornhill. I think that once upon a time they may have been one and the same foundation. The St. Michael's Church must have been at the highest point of the Hill. There are from the Street to the East end of the Church 12 steps.

This Church abuts upon No. 50, the National Provincial Bank (formerly Dimsdales) and in the cellars of this Bank (24 feet below the Street level) there are preserved three pieces of ancient walls.

One running east and west parallel with Cornhill is of very early work in which Roman material has been used and may have been built (judging from its depth) when Cornhill was first made a thoroughfare, although one would be inclined to put the part now visible about the 11th or 12th century.

It has a return wall about 18 inches (north and south) on the east side showing that the site is the same as the premises of to-day.

At the south end is preserved a very massive wall of very early date but probably not Roman although a solitary Roman brick is visible.

This wall is almost identical in width and texture with a wall in the crypt of St. Peter's Church. As far as we could judge this runs due south by the compass.

Close by in the well of the lift is a further piece about which I cannot express an opinion as it is very dirty and may be of brick work or may be a lot of Roman bonding tiles.

Under the staircase is a massive stone with a 3' by 3' square opening that tradition says was the stone for fixing the Standard.