

BLACKFRIARS AND *THE TIMES*.

BY THE LATE

WILLIAM MARTIN, M.A., LL.D., F.S.A.

By the courtesy of *The Times House Journal* and officials of *The Times* we are able to note and illustrate the discovery of further fragments of the Dominican Priory, where the offices of *The Times* are situated. A plan of the position of the remains is here given (Fig. 1) and also photographs, which give a clear indication of what was discovered.

In order to instal a lift, a spot was chosen between two walls on the north-west side of the "Private house" on *The Times'* premises, where an old well was thought to have existed. During the necessary excavation, the Chief Engineer, Mr. James, found that the site chosen for the lift was bounded on the north and south by walls 6 ft. apart, walls which were readily identified as pertaining to the old Priory. They presented dressed faces of some 6 ft. 6 in. in height rising from a paving of red bricks, being made up of squared blocks of chalk. Fig. 2 shows the appearance of the north wall, the upper portion of which had been cut back before the photograph was taken.

The walls seem to have formed the sides of some passage which ran east and west, but as regards the chambers or buildings connected by the passage no information is available.

Many worked stones were taken from the excavation, the nature of their forms being shown in Fig. 3.

The next discovery took place in the adjacent Servants' Hall which is situated in the basement of the "Private house." Beyond the north limit of this house is a passage below, a portion of which at a depth of 5 in. a length of walling was exposed, a length which ran westerly into and formed the core of the north wall of the Servants' Hall (Fig. 1). The eastern end of this

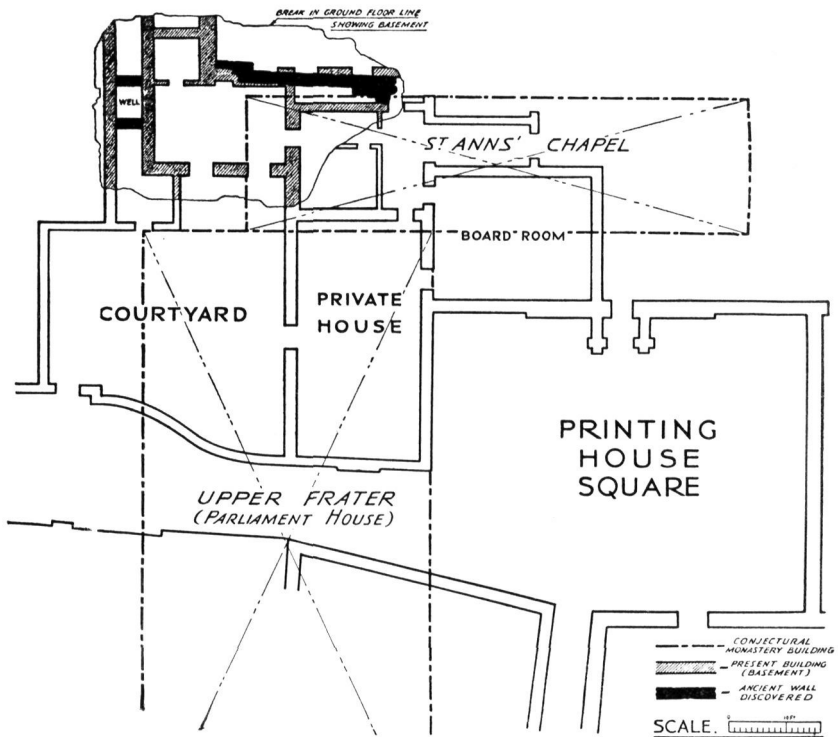


Fig. 1.—PLAN SHOWING THE POSITION OF WALLING UNEARTHED IN 1928 AT THE PRIVATE HOUSE OF THE OFFICES OF *THE TIMES*.  
[Photo. by *The Times House Journal*.

wall with its footings is shown in Fig. 4. The wall, composed of Kentish Ragstone, finishes at the footing of some walling which is placed at a right angle to the former. Following the wall towards the west, where it



Fig. 2.—NORTH WALL OF THE WELL FOR THE LIFT AT THE NORTH-WEST END OF THE PRIVATE HOUSE OF THE OFFICES OF *THE TIMES*.

[Photo. by *The Times House Journal*.]

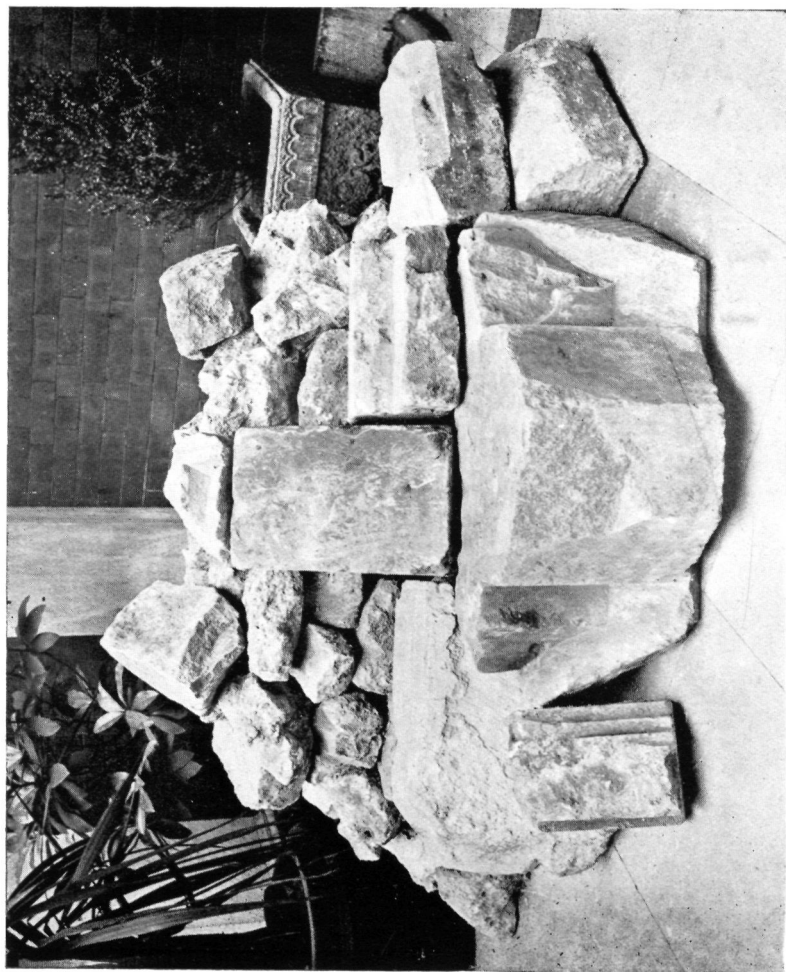


Fig. 3.—FRAGMENTS FROM THE LIFT-WELL AT THE PRIVATE HOUSE OF THE OFFICES OF THE TIMES.

[Photo. by *The Times House Journal.*



Fig. 4.—EASTERN END OF RAGSTONE WALLING RUNNING FROM THE NORTH WALL OF THE SERVANTS' HALL OF THE PRIVATE HOUSE OF THE OFFICES OF *THE TIMES*.

[Photo. by *The Times House Journal*.



Fig. 5.—NORTH WALL OF THE SERVANTS' HALL OF THE PRIVATE HOUSE OF *THE TIMES* OFFICES.

[Photo. by *The Times*.

has been exposed in the Servants' Hall at a height above the eastern portions, it seems to have been built with a set-back that corresponds somewhat with the modern fireplace, Fig 1. Continuing westwards, it is probable that the cellar or chamber between the "Well" and the exposed portions towards the east is composed largely of stones from original walling, although it may be formed of original walling patched in more modern times.

We are much indebted to Mr. James and to Mr. Binne for the loan of photographs and plan.