

ILLUSTRATIONS  
OF  
THE SITE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD  
OF THE  
**NEW POST OFFICE;**  
COMPREHENDING  
ANTIQUARIAN NOTICES  
OF  
**ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND,**  
AND ITS LIBERTY,  
AND THE  
ADJOINING UNITED PARISHES OF ST. ANNE,  
ST. AGNES, AND ST. JOHN ZACHARY,  
WITH  
AN APPENDIX,  
CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF THE ANTIENT  
**MOURNING BUSH TAVERN, &c.**  
ALDERSGATE,  
AND VARIOUS  
LONDON TAVERNS, ITS CONTEMPORARIES.

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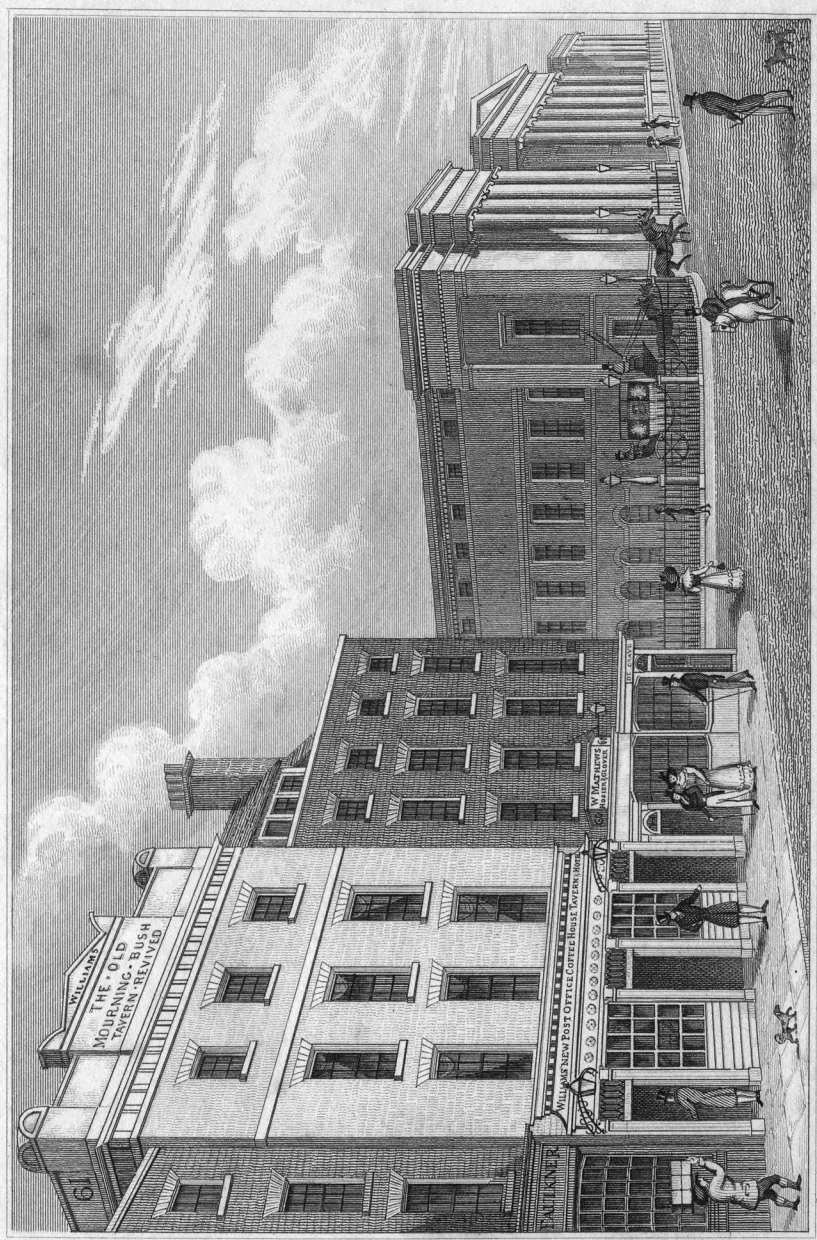
**LONDON:**  
SMILES AND TUCK, 138, ALDERSGATE STREET.

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1830.

*Entered at Stationer's Hall.*

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Eng<sup>d</sup> by Smales & Puck.

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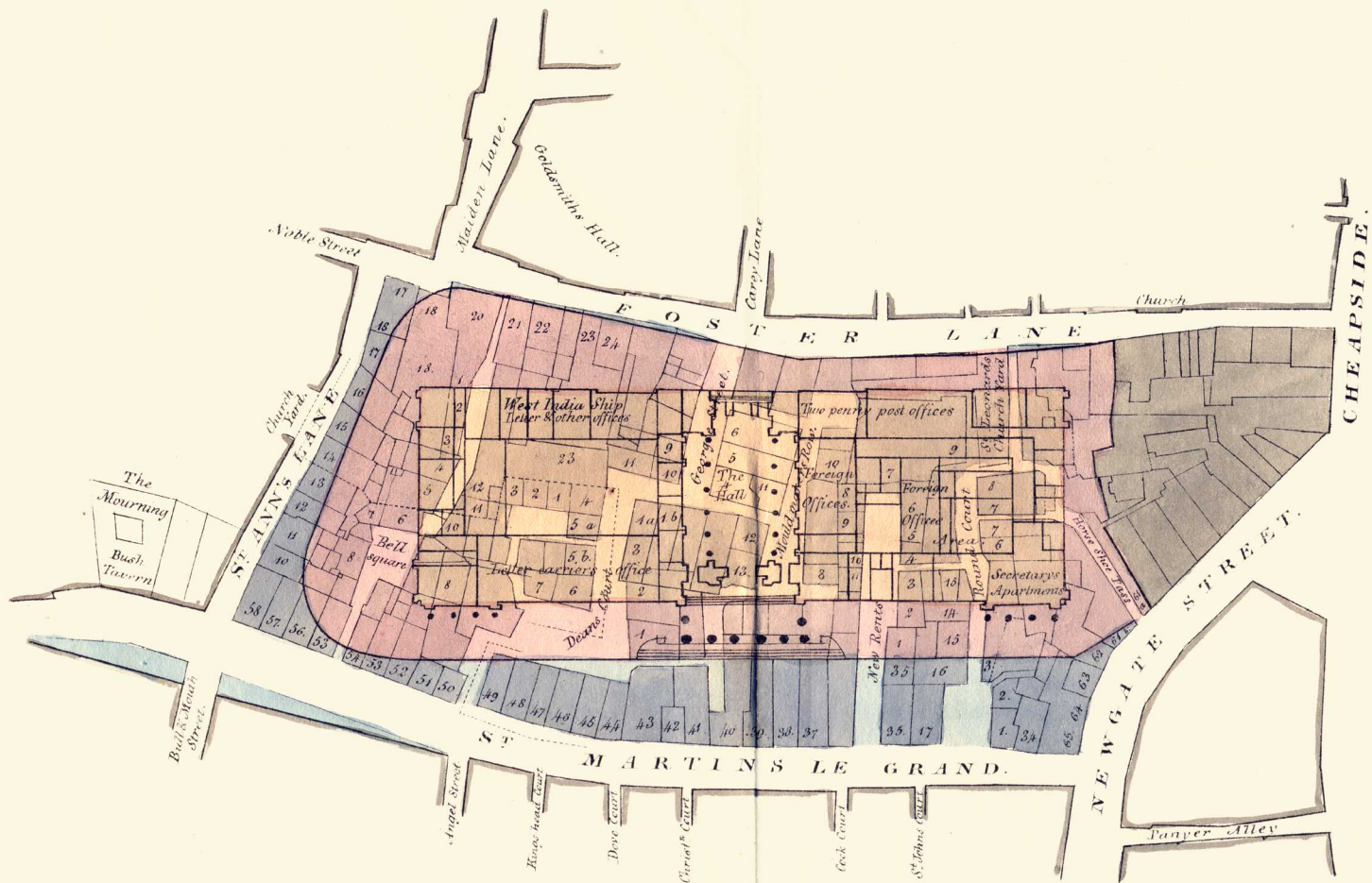
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**LONDON:**

SMALES AND TUCK, 138, ALDERSGATE STREET.

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1830.



PLAN Showing the BUILDINGS,  
 formerly upon the site of the  
 NEW POST OFFICE and adjoining parts.



ILLUSTRATIONS  
OF THE  
SITE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD  
OF THE  
**NEW POST OFFICE,**  
&c.

THERE is, perhaps, no spot more fertile in historical recollections, than St. Martin's-le-grand and its neighbourhood: "*imperium in imperio*," says Pennant, "surrounded by the city, yet subject near three centuries to the governing powers of Westminster Abbey." Here, in the catholic times, stood one of the most antient and magnificent royal free chapels in England, endowed "with the dreadful privilege of sanctuary," which made it the terror of the citizens of London, and an asylum for the greatest reprobates; at the same time that it was the presumed retreat of religion, and even the occasional residence of royalty. It was near this spot, that the old publisher, John Day, fixed one of the earliest printing-presses—that one of the most ancient parts of the city wall ran, and one of its first gates was situated—and, besides combining numerous other subjects, interesting for their age or otherwise, it is now the site of one of the most magnificent buildings connected with the

commercial intercourse of the country, which the capital can boast of.

If we go back to the extremely remote periods of metropolitan history, we have more than probable evidence, that as early as the *Lyndin*, or London of the Ancient Britons, here ran one of the great track-ways, with which, for commercial purposes, that people intersected the kingdom, and which has been ever since known by the denomination of the Watling Street. It took its course from Belingsgate, along the street still so called, to Aldersgate, where, quitting the city, it ran along Goswell Street to the west of Islington, through Hagbush Lane, yet in part remaining, to Verulamium, or St. Albans. In the Roman times, we are certain this was a remarkable spot; for traces, both of the living and the dead—coins, beads, ornaments of dress, glasses of various shapes, pottery—in amphoras, Samian ware, both plain and beautifully figured; funeral arms, with burnt bones and ashes, lachrymatories, &c. have been excavated in abundance.\*

That a building existed on the site of St. Martin's-le-grand, appropriated by the early christians to religious worship, is extremely probable, not only from remains discovered in excavating the spot, but from the bull of Pope Clement, exempting the original or Saxon College, from episcopal visitation; *because*, its church is stated to have been founded *before bishops were ordained in the kingdom*, and episcopal jurisdiction had been usurped over them during times of civil commotion; 'insurgente procellâ turbationis in regno.' Its dedication also to St. Martin, a parti-

\* Several specimens of these are now in the Guildhall library.

cular favorite with the early christians, and the patron of many churches of the highest antiquity, further indicates its great age, and makes it likely that the brothers, Ingebric and Girard, who are said to have been its founders in the reign of Edward the Confessor, were merely the revivers of some more antient establishment.

We shall omit noticing, however, (as foreign to our purpose) eras so very remote, together with the further history of the college for the present; and looking about us on all sides, take a glance of this interesting neighbourhood, during the flourishing periods of that celebrated foundation.

At the conquest, then, we find the Norman, William, granting to St. Martin's, amongst other gifts—"All the land and the moor without the postern called Cripplegate." This great fen or moor (magnam moram) was the same with the modern Moorfields or Finsbury; and on this large sheet of water, when frozen, were the city youth accustomed to amuse themselves on the ice. The monk Fitzstephen, a century afterwards, gives us the following account, which, though often quoted, so properly belongs to this part of our description, that we shall repeat it once more—the antient custom of sliding differed but little from the present, the skating and other feats seem to have considerably varied.

"When the great moorish lake on the north side of the city wall is frozen over, great companies of young men go to sport upon the ice; some take a run, and setting their feet at a distance from each other, and their body sideways, are drawn by their



fellows, who hold each others hands; and going so fast, they sometimes all fall down together.—Those who are more expert, fasten *bones* to their shoes, (as the tibia of some animals,) and impelling themselves forward, by striking the ice with staves shod with iron, glide along as swift as a bird through the air, or as a dart from a warlike engine. Sometimes, two persons starting from a distance, run against each other with their staves, as if they were at tilt, whereby one or both of them are thrown down, not without bodily hurt; and after their fall, are, by the violent motion, carried onward and grazed by the ice; and if one fall upon his leg or arm, it is usually broken; yet our youth, who are greedy of honour, and emulous of victory, do thus exercise themselves in counterfeit battles, that they may sustain the brunt more strongly, when they come to it in good earnest.”

This moor also appears to have been a common fishery of the city, for the jurors, on an inquisition, 2nd Edward I. returned, “That the City of London and its appurtenances, with the County of Middlesex, were held of the King, in capite, by a certain yearly payment into the King’s Exchequer, by the Sheriffs of London, and that the said City of London were possessed, and always had been, until the time that Walter Hervey was Mayor of London, of a certain *moor and fishery* appertaining to the commonalty of the said city, (c’tate d’ce civitatis) but which *moor and fishery*, had been in the possession of Walter de Morton, since such mayoralty of the said Walter Hervey, to the disherison of the Lord the King, and to the damage of the said commonality of

the city;—they (the jurors) know not by what authority. And a subsequent inquest found, that the lords of Finsbury had raised the banks of a certain ditch, and impeded the common way towards the said moor, leading from the Cross at Finsbury to the way called *Eldestrete*, and from which a path extended to the Church of *Soresdych*. They add, as to the moor without the walls, that they return to the same effect as had been returned by former juries.

The first change, on this moor being drained or dried up, was to convert it into gardens and arbours for the citizens; but these being afterwards obliged to make room for houses, the district was constituted a prebend of St. Paul's Cathedral, by the appellation of *Mora*. The antient Fleet or river of Wells, passing in its course the south end of Old Street, ran through the moor, near the north corner of London Wall, by Fore Street, to its influx at Walbrook, on the east side of Moorgate. The stone arch it flowed under in Whitecross Street, occasioning a stoppage of the water from its narrowness; we find the following presentment of a jury respecting it in the 3rd of Edward I. viz:—"That the abbots of Rumsay and the priors of St. Trinity, having built, six years past" (as the Inquisition ran) "*a certain stone arch at the White Crosse, in the Ward of Cripplegate*, beyond the course of a certain water coming down from Smethefeld del Barbican, in that ward, towards the *Moor*; which arch the aforesaid abbot and prior ought to maintain and repair; the same from being straightened, prevented the water there having its full course, and caused great annoyance to the inhabitants."

Beech Lane, near this spot, is mentioned in the records of St. Giles in the Field's hospital, as the way lying "versus *le Bêche*," or the *shore* of the great lake; which seems rather to have given name to it, than the circumstance of beech trees growing there, or its being the habitation of a Sir John de la Beech, as Stowe supposes. It formerly exhibited at its west corner a *red cross*, contrasting with the *white* one just noticed; and both evidently gave name to the respective streets on their sites. The burgh-kenning or Roman city watch-tower, commonly called the Barbican, as above, stood near the Red Cross, and was afterwards the site of the town mansion of the Bridgewater family, whence the present Bridgewater Square.

Scarcely any spot became more altered from building on, than where St. Bartholomew the Great church now stands. The antient legend, once belonging to the priory, and at present at the British Museum, draws a disgusting picture of its state before Rayhere began his foundation; namely, that it was a common laystall in the midst of an uncomfortable marsh, and ornamented with the public gibbet.

"Truly, this place, before its cleansing, pretended no hope of goodness. Right uncleane it was, and as a marsh, dung and fenny, with water almost every time abounding; and that which was eminent above the water and dry, was deputed and ordained to be the gibbet or gallows of thieves."

Aldersgate Ward, which adjoins the priory, was antiently called the Ward of Wolmer of Essex,—  
"Warda Wolmer de Essexiæ." And by a passage

formerly called "Pottage-pot Alley," connected the Monastery Close from Aldersgate Street. We here antiently reached another dreary place,—the *Gardium Judæorum*, or national Jewish cemetery, now called Jewin Street. This was the first burial-place appointed to the use of the Jews in this city or kingdom, as well as the only one for the sepulture of that nation, from all parts of England, till the year 1177, when by an indefatigable application to Parliament, they obtained permission to have burial grounds in the several places they resided at. It remained to them until the time of their final banishment out of England, and was then turned into little gardens with cottages and summer houses. Gadbury, the old almanack maker and astrologer, dates many of his pieces from "Jewin Gardens."

The erection of Cripplegate Church, in the parish whereof Jewin Street stands, took place immediately before the foundation of St. Bartholomew priory and hospital, in the reign of Henry I., as is thus quaintly noticed in the legend alluded to.—"A certeyn olde man, *Alfun* by name, not long beforne" (that is the building of St. Bartholomew Priory) hadde beldid the Chirche of Seynt Gyles, at the gate of the Cyte, that yme English tonge is called Crypilgate, and that goode work happily he hadde endyd."

Pennant tells us:—"The name St. Giles, always imports something of beggary; and accordingly, Cripplegate, here received its name, from the number of cripples and beggars with which it was haunted formerly. St. Giles was their patron; he was a noble Athenian, and of so great charity, as at length to give away the very coat he wore on his back, which he bestowed on a sick beggar; who no sooner

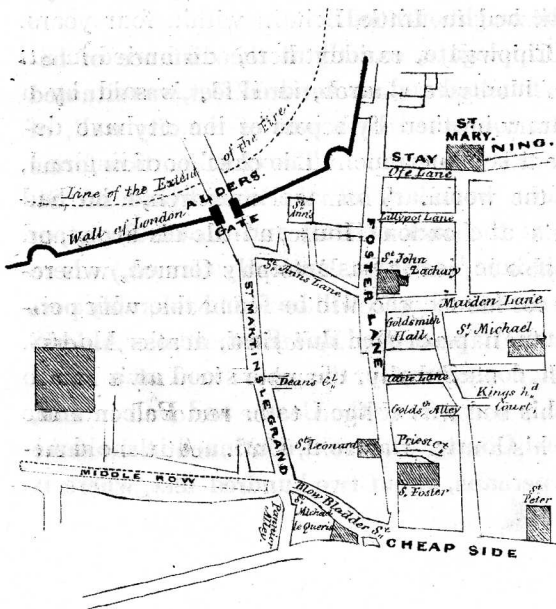
put it on, than he was restored to health." So says the legend. This same saint had in this very street, a fraternity, afterwards founded by Henry V. who built a handsome house for its use; and to which we find various documents directed amongst the patent rolls—no vestige of it now remains.

In the neighbouring precinct,—at this time narrowed to Crowder's Well,—Stowe mentions poor Ann of Lodbury to have been drowned in 1244. It had long after been converted to what that writer terms, "a boss of clear water," by the famous Lord Mayor Whittington. From this pond, in its original state, it appears a water course ran towards Aldersgate, possibly to some receptacle near the Castle and Falcon,—for we find it objected against "one Hugo Gregory," in the reign of Edward I., "That he had diverted the water of a certain stream, or waterfall, in the parish of St. Giles, without Cripplegate, which used to run through his garden;—to the great annoyance of the neighbourhood.

From Cripplegate, exactly at the distance of between five hundred and six hundred feet, was situated Aldersgate, connected by a part of the city wall, of which much still remains. The chief portion forms the southern boundary of the churchyard of St. Botolph, (at the back of Bull and Mouth Street, or "Stukandislane," as it was antiently termed,) where it may be examined, and will be found tolerably perfect. Hence it proceeded due East, across Aldersgate Street, consequently, the gate stood at a small distance this way, from the Castle and Falcon Inn, and Harrow Court; whence it continued in the same direction, perhaps, about two hundred feet, where it

formed an angle, and had a curious bastion. It then went rather to the north north east of Falcon Square, eastward of Castle Street, where it is now standing, externally incorporated with the walls of houses; and in the cellars of these it is still to be traced, the stone being very smooth in several, massy, and entirely perfect; thence it proceeds and exhibits large remains in the church-yard of St. Giles, Cripplegate.

This course of the wall, and the relative position of the objects mentioned, will be better understood from the subjoined sketch, copied from the plan drawn by order of the Corporation of London, to ascertain the extent of the great fire of 1666, and now preserved in the Comptroller's Office, Guildhall:



Little Britain, antiently Breton Street, lay on the opposite or west side of Aldersgate Street, and received its name from the Dukes de Bretagne, who had a magnificent town mansion on the spot. To this adjoined, at that time, Montague House, and two or three other noble residences. Queen Jane, or Joan of Navarre, widow of Henry IV. had what is termed a "mese or mansion, in which she kept her wardrobe, beside Aldrichegate;" the keeping, and overseeing of which, was given by letters patent, 1 Edward IV. to Sir John Fogg, Bart. with twelve tenantries or habitations thereto, for which he received the wages of *two-pence* per day. In more modern times, the spot became celebrated as the Paternoster Row of booksellers. Robert Scott, appears to have been the principal dealer in Little Britain, and he had warehouses on the continent, particularly at Frankfort and Paris. A newspaper in 1664, states, that four hundred and sixty pamphlets were published in Little Britain within four years. Richard Chiswell, a resident here, and buried in St. Botolph Aldersgate Church, in 1711, is said by a contemporary brother of the profession, to have deserved the title of metropolitan bookseller of England, if not of the world. Thomas Rawlinson, who had apartments at London House, a little distance, and who was also buried in St. Botolph's Church, was remarkable for his large collection of books, which obtained him the name of *Tom Folio*, in the Tatler, No. 158, after he had stuffed four chambers in Gray's Inn so full, that his bed was obliged to be removed into the passage; his library was sold, 1725. At the old Al-

dersgate coffee house, whose back extends towards Little Britain, was the hall of an antient catholic guild of the Holy Trinity, called Trinity Hall; it had a curious timber roof, and various coats of arms in the window. The great poet Milton, who before resided in Jewin Gardens, is thought to have removed to, and taught school in a large house adjoining this hall, which had then a front garden, and is now the meeting place of the City of London Literary and Scientific Institution.

Two other houses of entertainment are mentioned as being near this spot; one, as old as Edward the Second's time, called the *Taborer's Inn*, of which we know nothing but the name; the other, more recent, under the denomination of the *Crown Tavern*, stood at the end of Duck Lane, and is described in Ward's *London Spy*, 1709, as possessing a noble room, painted by Fuller, with the Muses, the Judgment of Paris, the Contention of Ajax and Ulysses, &c. "We were conducted by the jolly master," says he, "a true kinsman of the bacchanalian family, into a large stately room, where at the first entrance, I discerned the masterstrokes of the famed Fuller's pencil, the whole room painted by that commanding hand, that his dead figures appeared with such lively majesty, that they begat reverence in the spectators towards the awful shadows. We accordingly bade the complaisant waiter oblige us with a quart of his richest claret, such as was fit only to be drank in the presence of such heroes, into whose company he had done us the honour to introduce us. He accordingly gave directions to his drawer, who re-



turned with a quart of such inspiring juice, that we thought ourselves translated into one of the houses of the heavens, and were there drinking immortal nectar with the gods and goddesses.

“ Who could such blessings when thus found resign ?  
 An honest vintner faithful to the vine ;  
 A spacious room, good paintings, and good wine.”

Having cursorily surveyed some of the more prominent curiosities without the gate, (adopting for the most part the descriptions in our common histories of London), we shall next endeavour, with somewhat more of research, to point out those objects *within the walls*, which, as matters of antiquity, are most worthy observation.

The parish of St. Anne and St. Agnes, was the first on entering London through Aldersgate ; the church stands in St. Ann's Lane, which formerly seems to have been a mere country path, it being stated in an antient presentment, as “ a certain lane leading from St. John Zachary to Aldersgate,” which was then stopped up, and had been so a long while. Aldersgate itself, at the same time, seems to have been greatly neglected, it is said to have had a purpresture or laystall on both sides of it. Stowe mentions this parish to have been antiently called, St. Anne *in the willows*, possibly from the church being at first overshadowed by that species of tree, which, from the once marshy nature of the whole land hereabouts, seems no strained interpretation. That this church was of very remote date, has just been proved by

the discovery of a stone coffin, in digging a vault in it, the age and decay of which, rendered it impracticable to remove it, so as to make those observations which would have been desirable.

It appears, from documents preserved in the vestry, that St. Anne's church, before it was rebuilt, contained two chapels, dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St. Katherine, each having an altar and image of its respective saint, and that the various chantries in it maintained no less than six priests. The most remarkable object, in the way of monumental record, was the tomb of Peter Heiwood, great grandson of the person who seized Guy Fawkes with his lantern, as he was quitting the cellar of the parliament-house, preparatory to the execution of that horrible treason, called the Gunpowder Plot, and who, his epitaph informs us, "for his zealous prosecution of papists, as justice of peace, was stabbed in Westminster Hall, by John James, a Dominican Friar, A. D. 1640.

"Reader, if not a papist bred,  
Upon such ashes gently tread."

Of the more antient interments known, the principal was Sir William Gregory, Lord Mayor in 1451, who was a distinguished parishioner and benefactor, and some of whose bequests still remain to the parish.

The Church of St. Anne was burnt in 1548,\* and

\* St Anne's parish, measuring it as the houses stood before the pulling down of Aldersgate, and the erection of the new post office, extended north and south from the gate, which it included, to the east side of *Dean's Court*, taking in part of that court, and three houses beyond, *excepting three houses in St. Leonard's parish*, about half of St. Anne's Lane, and of Bell's Court. On the west side of the

again in 1666, when every house was destroyed. The last rebuilding cost 2448*l*. The front is of brick, and very little decorated, but having an open yard before it with several trees, the effect is rather pleasing. The inside ought to be more known for its beauty; and at the first glance the similarity it bears to St. Stephen Walbroke, speaks both to be the work of the same architect, Sir Christopher Wren. Like that, the site here is confined, and the artist has made the most of it. It consists of a square, in which are four composite pillars, with gilt capitals, and whose pedestals, seeming to rest on the pews, support four arches. The entablatures are enriched to the full licence of the order, and the segments are adorned by a variety of beautiful flowers, and large

parish, next St. Martin's Lane, it took in from Aldersgate to one house south of Four Dove Court; and in that compass half of Bull and Mouth Street; and on the east side of the parish, half Angel Street, King's Head Court, part of Lillypot Lane, and part of Noble Street, comprehending the following streets, lanes, courts, alleys, &c.

South.	{	Part of St. Anne's Lane.	Part of Four Dove Court.	}	West.
		—— Bell Court.	—— Noble Street.		
		—— Dean's Court.	—— Church Alley.		
		—— Angel Street.	—— Dolphin Court.		
West.	{	—— Bull and Mouth Street.	—— Dorne's Court.	}	East.
		—— St. Martin's-le-grand.	—— Combe's Alley.		
		—— King's Head Court.	—— Lillypot Lane.		

This compass in the new view of London, 1708, is said to have included 98 houses. And in the parish-clerk's remarks, 1732, 144 houses, besides Aldersgate, and two houses by the church, a glebe to the rector; of which, within St. Martin's-le-grand liberty there stood, Half of Bull and Mouth Street, taking in part of the Bull and Mouth Inn, and King's Head Court, Four Dove Court, Half of Angel Street, and Dean's Court.

pannels, formed by clusters of leaves, entwined with ribbands. The ceilings in each corner are horizontal, and contain circles of flower and fruit, and the adjoining angles, cherubim, festoon, and branches of palm intersecting lines from the four pillars, from the roof into the same number of plain arches, with a centre of gilt acanthus leaves." The decorations of the altar and other parts correspond, and place St. Anne's, notwithstanding some trifling defects, amongst the handsomest of our London churches.

According to Newcourt, there have been forty-eight rectors here from 1322, to 1696.

The back of St. Anne's church, as will be seen from the plan, immediately adjoined London Wall; the west end, and probably the old steeple, standing at a short distance from the gate; between these two, and originally filling up the whole space from the inner side of Aldersgate to St. Anne's Lane end, was the large tavern distinguished in after times by the name of the Mourning Bush, whose vaulted cellars, as they remain from the fire of London, disclose the foundation wall of that structure, and as fine a specimen of early brick arch-work as is, perhaps, any where to be met with. This was the house, whose landlord in the civil wars, took the singular method of showing his loyalty, which we find recorded, but which together with the tavern itself, we shall at present pass by, in order to give it hereafter a more particular mention, proceeding in the mean time with the other antiquities hereabouts.

That Aldersgate derived its name from its age, and no other circumstance, will we think be readily ad-

mitted by any one who sees the massy foundations of the gate remaining in the cellars of the Mourning Bush, and the portion of city wall which adjoins them. Not only are these foundations enormous in themselves, and indicative of vast age, but what must at once be conclusive, they have regular courses of Roman brick worked into them, still as fresh as ever, and so hard, that the antiquary, whose digestion would attempt to reduce them to any thing modern, must have a tooth as strong as that of Cerberus himself.

The famous early printer, John Day, who lived over Aldersgate, occurs in the parish books as churchwarden of St. Anne, under the date 1574. He signs himself as "Stacioner," agreeably to the following mention of him by Stowe:—"John Day, stationer, a late famous printer of many good books, in our time dwelled in this gate, and builded much upon the wall of the city, towards the parish church of St. Anne." There is an excellent bible printed by Day, in Edward the Sixth's time, with this title, "The Old and New Testament," &c. "printed by John Day, *dwelling over Aldersgate*, beneath St. Martyn's, 1551, the 3d day of Maye." His other publications were numerous, as enumerated in Ames's *Typographical Antiquities*; and all have the address, "*dwelling over Aldersgate*." Most of them are theological; and were very instrumental, when the times allowed him to print such, in overthrowing the reign of popery. One of these books printed here, has a wood-cut in the title, representing Day with a whip in his hand, in a room at the top of this gate, where his boys were in bed, and the sun

shining on them, with the punning line, "Arise, for it is *Daye!*"

It may be observed of Aldersgate, (which was rebuilt after Day's time), that it was of more modern date appropriated, like the upper parts of the other city gates, to the residence of different civic officers; as the common-cryer, common-hunt, &c. Besides the original postern on the east side, there was in 1740, an additional postern made to this gate, through two houses out of Bull and Mouth Street. The gate itself was repaired at the same time, and what is called "beautified," as far as so ugly a fabric could be made beautiful.

St. John Zachary, which stood opposite the east end of St. Anne's Lane, is now, like several of the city churches destroyed by the great fire, reduced to a small fragment, and the rest of its site occupied as a cemetery. It has since that calamity been united to St. Anne, but was previously independent, and contained the monuments of various distinguished characters. The most conspicuous was of Drugo Barentine, Lord Mayor in 1398, whose house stood opposite Goldsmith's Hall, and had a communication with it by a gallery, built across the street. Goldsmith's Hall, itself, (which is now immediately to be pulled down,) is a good specimen of the style of building which prevailed in Charles the Second's time, and contains several fine pictures and curiosities; "but to say," quoth Stowe, that Bartholomew Read, goldsmith, mayor in 1502, kept such a feast in this hall, as some have fabled, is incredible and altogether impossible, considering the smallness of the hall and

numbers of the guests ; which, as they say, were more than one hundred persons of distinction. For the messes and dishes of meats to them served, the paled park, in the same hall, furnished with fruitful trees, beasts of venery, and other circumstances of that pretended feast, well considered, Westminster Hall would hardly have sufficed, and therefore I pass it by.”\*

The College of St. Martin’s-le-grand, swallowed

\* *Boundaries of St. John Zachary in 1732.*

The parish of St. John Zachary, takes in eight houses on the south side of Maiden Lane, east from Wax-chandler’s Hall, with that hall itself, and four houses in Mutton Court; seven houses from Maiden Lane south, on the east side of Gutter Lane; three houses in Huggin’s Alley, and three on the west side of Gutter Lane, next unto, and south from Goldsmith’s Hall; and six houses on the south side, and eight on the north side of Cary Lane, and five on the east side of Foster Lane, south from Goldsmith’s Hall, together with Goldsmith’s Hall itself, and ten houses on the west side of that lane, south from St. Anne’s Lane; nine houses in Bell Court, four in Three Crown Court, five houses on the south side of St. Anne’s Lane, west from Foster Lane, and three houses on the north side; three houses next to St. John Zachary’s church-yard, (one being the rector’s) on the east side of Noble Street,) and six houses on the north side of Maiden Lane, east from that church-yard, and six houses north, on the west side of Staining Lane from Maiden Lane.

*Streets, Lanes, Courts, &c. in the above.*

Part of Huggin’s Alley.	Part of Maiden Lane.
—— Foster Lane.	—— Mutton Court.
—— Bell Court.	—— Staining Lane.
—— Three Crown Court.	—— Gutter Lane.
—— St. Ann’s Lane.	—— Cary Lane,
—— Noble Street.	(except two houses.)

The number of houses in this parish in 1708, was 84, and in 1732, 88; besides the two halls and rectory-house.

(Signed) “JOHN EAST, clerk of the united parishes.”

up the greater part of the two parishes just mentioned with small portions of two or three others, and inclu-

The number of houses here, and in St. Anne's, in the population returns of 1802, was 275 houses, and 4 uninhabited.

The parish of St. Anne in the catholic times, as was evidently the case also with the above, was much thinner peopled than afterwards. This fact, as to St. Anne, would appear from the small income of its rector alone, compared with that even of the adjoining parish of St. Leonard, for in Valor Ecclesiasticus, (29 Hen. VIII.) " John Morton clerk, rector of the parish of the blessed virgin St. Anne and St. Agnes, received from the said rectory, per annum, for all and singular the profits and commodities to the same belonging, the sum of 8*l.* only; whilst the rector of the former received 26*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* This is to be accounted for, as to St. Anne's, from the existence of St. Martin's-le-grand college, whose walls then inclosed the whole of Dean's Court, or the dean's house and garden, and the site of which, though in this parish, and the spot on which it is afterwards stated to have had several houses, *was at this time unbuilt*; the unbuilt state of Noble Street, both then and long afterwards, operated in the same manner, leaving all the space behind it, since converted into St. Anne's Alley, Dolphin Court, Dyer's Court, &c. uninhabited. This paucity of dwellings, we see also from the foregoing statements, continued in a degree in both parishes, even long after the fire of London, particularly in St. Anne's parish, where in 1738, we only find ninety-eight houses enumerated; in 1732, only twenty-four years later, one hundred and forty-four. As the vacant places were entirely built on, soon after the fire of London, this successive increase is only to be accounted for by the subdividing of the larger mansions in both parishes into smaller tenements, or building such on their sites when pulled down.

In endeavouring to trace, chronologically, the progress of building in St. Anne's parish, to which we shall now confine ourselves, from old plans, the following are the results furnished:—

In Aggas's Plan of London, 1560-74, there is only a *single house* standing within or adjoining the inner side of Aldersgate; nor is there any house on the north-east side of St. Anne's Lane except this, and another house, near the site of the present St. Anne's school, or the Corner of Noble Street. Noble Street itself is but thinly built on; and not at all on its north-west end, where there is only a wall. The



ded within its precincts, nearly all the remarkable not already noticed.

It contained the fine college church, or *Free Cha-*  
 city wall is conspicuously seen running from a bastion near Crowder's well, in the direction of Aldersgate Street, and turns off westwards, by the end of Noble Street, to form that portion of it in which Aldersgate is inserted, and, from whence it continues in a line, along Bull and Mouth Street. The north extremity of St. Martin's liberty, is marked by a gate, which crosses Foster Lane, a little south of Cary Lane, and which evidently was inserted in one of its boundary walls.

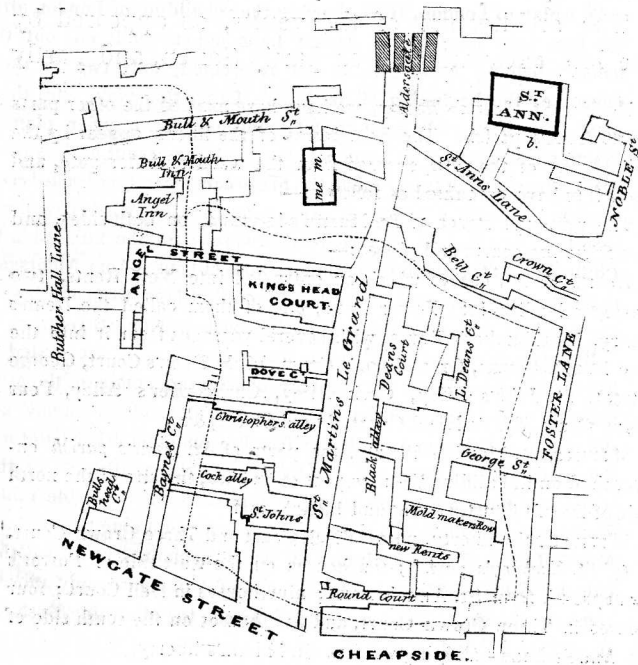
Hogenberg's plan, 1574, shows London Wall, Aldersgate Street, &c. nearly as above, only the north side of St. Anne's Lane appears more builded on. The scale of this plan is however too minute to draw any decisive conclusions from.

In a plan of London, 1679, showing the rebuilding of London after the fire, both sides of St. Anne's Lane appear built on, but the house adjoining Aldersgate is not re-erected, only two or three houses at the beginning of St. Anne's Lane, this way, and these must have been only very recently finished, for a prior plan in Northwick's History of London, showing "the extent of the dreadful conflagration of 1666," make the fire *to have entirely consumed every house in the parish, as well as St. Anne's church.* The whole parish was rebuilt in less than twenty years afterwards; for the large plan by Philip Lea, 1698, exhibits continuous lines of houses from Aldersgate to St. Anne's Lane, and on both sides of that lane, the church yard excepted, as well as on the sites of the courts in Noble Street.

Between 1708 and 1732, when forty-seven houses are stated to have been added to the parish, it is probable, the remains of the great mansion called Northumberland house, had been cleared away, and the whole of its grounds built on; forming, amongst other buildings, the north side of Bull and Mouth Street; the south side of that street was built as early as 1679, as appears from a marble tablet, discovered on pulling down the corner house, adjoining the Bull and Mouth Inn, and an inscription on which acquaints us, it was then called "*Stukeley Street.*" The removal of Aldersgate, only afforded room for the single house, standing between the Mourning Bush and the Castle and Falcon.

pel of St. Martin's, (for such it only was, though probably possessing parochial rights) or rather those

Taking Le Roque's Plan of London, 1746, as our guide, and its accuracy may be depended upon, we see exactly the extent of St. Martin's-le grand liberty; how far that liberty extended into the parish of St. Anne, as well as St. John Zachary, &c.; and how much of both has been annihilated, or at least the houses in them, to complete the new post office.



rights attached to the church of St. Leonard's, which before the year 1231, was included within the college church. In that year, the canons built a separate church, or as it is described in the records, "a chapel in the court of their church, to prevent the parishioners of that parish, having to resort to St. Leonard's altar in the college church." And these canons afterwards are charged with a misdemeanour, in having obstructed a certain gate by which it was customary to go to this church of St. Leonard. The college chapel extended east and west, nearly from Foster Lane to St. Martin's-le-grand, or about 200 feet, and consisted of a body and choir, but without transepts agreeably to the rule in chapel building.

The architecture of the vaults, as appeared by the late excavations, was partly Saxon, and partly

Besides St. Martin's liberty, we have here marked the other parts of St. Anne's parish. The boundaries of the liberty appear by the dotted part of the plan, severed from the ward of Aldersgate, and show it to have contained as follows :—

The principal street of St. Martin's-le-grand, on both sides, and the following courts and places :—

Round Court, out of which an entry led into New Rents, two passages leading into Foster Lane, one of them called the Dean's Entry, Mouldmaker's Rents, with several passages from it into the two Dean's Courts, Great Dean's Court, Little Dean's Court, George Street, St. John's Alley, Cock Alley, Christopher's Alley, Four Dove Court, King's Head Court, Angel Street, &c.

WITHIN St. Martin's liberty, the parts of *St. Anne's parish* encroached on in building the new post office, are, the site of the north side of Dean's Court, (Great and Little), and

WITHOUT the liberty, parts of Bell Court and Three Crown Court.

*Of St. Zachary's parish*; ten houses on the west side of Foster's Lane, south from St. Anne's Lane; nine houses in Bell Court; four houses in Three Crown Court, and five houses on the south side of St. Anne's Lane—all lying WITHIN St. Martin's liberty,

of the early pointed orders; of the style in which the superstructure was built we are ignorant; we are only told that it had a sollar or balcony next its west door in St. Martin's Lane, whose jetty being too low, was presented as a nuisance. It probably also had a turret with a bell. The choir part of it answered to the crypt under it, and was most probably the work of William of Wickham, who, whilst dean here, in the reign of Edward III. is said to have made great additions to the college. There are also letters-patent of that king extant, to enquire into the defects in the chapel of St. Martin, &c. In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, 29 Henry VIII. the prebends or canonries are stated to have been reduced to *two*, the amount of whose incomes was little above 20*l.* a year each. The chantries amounted to eight in number, each whereof had no doubt its altar and its priest, which will afford us some idea of the magnitude of the chapel; and it may be further inferred, that this was considerable, from Otto, the pope's legate, convening here in 1238, all the abbots of the Benedictine order throughout England, in order to promulgate certain new constitutions to be decreed by them.

The prebendal houses for the canons extended along this side, north to the site of the late dean's court, where was the dean's house and garden, the latter having a wall, which ran west and east from St. Martin's Lane to near Foster Lane, or as it was more anciently called, the lane of St. Vedast, whence the boundaries ran straight along by Foster Lane towards Cheapside, &c. The whole ground formed nearly a square, which was enclosed by walls and gates, and it had a liberty or sort of "*Rules*" around

it, extending westwards to the side of Bagnio Court, where there was a wall dividing them from the precinct of the Grey Friars, now the Blue-coat Hospital.

The college walls, in which were three great gates of entrance, besides posterns, ran as follows:—The south wall or enclosure, next Cheapside and Newgate Street, stood just at the back of the present line of houses, extending from the corner of St. Martin's-le-grand, to within a few doors of the corner of Foster Lane, or to the midst of the house of Roger Wright, grocer, which stood about where Cheapside commences. It contained the great gatehouse or principal entrance at which the judges are stated to have held their sittings. The east wall was in like manner, at the back of the houses on the west side of Foster Lane, (excluding St. Leonard's church and church-yard at the corner,) and ended at Bell Court, opposite Goldsmith's Hall. From thence extended a third wall, confining the north side, where was the dean's garden mentioned, and a Hugh Paine's garden. The west or St. Martin's-le-grand side, was formed partly by a fourth wall, the prebendal houses, and the front of the college chapel; and here were the other two principal entrances, namely, the west church door, and the dean's gate, or way leading to that dignitary's private residence, as well as to the interior of the college, and the exact site of which was marked by Great Dean's Court and Little Dean's Court, lately standing there. The liberty, as will be seen by the plan from Le Roque, took the street as far as the channel or kennel of all the four boundary ways, viz.—Cheapside, and Blow-bladder or Newgate Street, Foster Lane, St. Anne's

Lane, and St. Martin's-le-grand; and further included, for a certain distance, both sides of the street, and extended beyond it so as to comprehend part of Angel Street, then Angel Court, with part of the Bull and Mouth Inn, and the whole space thence south to Bagnio Court, which was enclosed as described.

The above particulars will appear from an antient description and plan of these boundaries, first given in Stowe's Survey, Ed. 1632, and since several times reprinted, but which as matter of curiosity here, and as indeed necessary to authenticate what we have advanced, we shall again present to the reader. The account is contained in a declaration of William Boston, abbot of Westminster, after St. Martin's-le-grand had been transferred by Henry VII. to that foundation, and is as follows:—

“Imprimis.—Beginning at a wall lying directly against a post, that standeth in the midst of one Roger Wright's, a grocer's house, which standeth of the east side of the south side of St. Martin's; and from the wall in the the said grocer's house, with the half deal of the street, into the channel of the same side, that house standeth upon sanctuary; and so forth from the east, westward, into the midst of St. Martin's Lane, next to the chapel of St. Martin's, against the tenement of the Bull's Head, which tenement lyeth at the south-end of the said lane, on the west part.

“Item.—Half part of the street of St. Martin's Lane, sanctuary, from the south unto the north, as far forth as the houses appertaining to the Bull's Head do extend northwards.

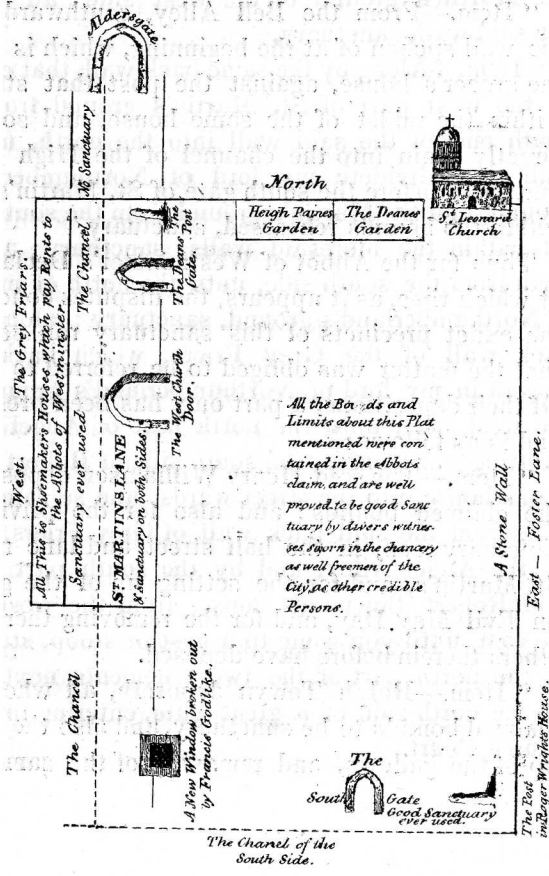
“Item.—From the said place of the Bull’s Head, then the whole lane of St. Martin’s, sanctuary, on both sides, unto a post or stoop that standeth of the north side or end of the two tenements standing by the great gate next going into the Dean’s Court.

“Item.—From the said St. Martin’s Lane, at the aforesaid Bull’s Head, turning by a wall that divideth the said tenement of the Bull’s Head and St. Martin’s ground, which wall turneth and extendeth from the east, westwards, unto a back wall that closeth in St. Martin’s ground of the west side; all within the said wall, sanctuary.

“Item.—Along by the same back wall, that closeth in the west part of St. Martin’s ground from the south end of the said wall into the north, unto a wall that divideth my lord of Northumberland’s ground; and St. Martin’s ground from the south end; all within the aforesaid walls, sanctuary; and so forth from the south side, unto the north of my lord of Northumberland’s ground, sanctuary; along by a back wall of the Grey Friars, which back wall closeth in my lord of Northumberland’s grounds of the west part, unto the north part of Angel Alley, abutting northwards, the south side of Robert Bowman’s house into the street wards, and so sanctuary still, from the said back wall of Grey Friars, along by the Angel Alley, and by the south part of the said Robert Bowman’s house, from the west unto the east, until you come to a post or stoop, standing on the north part of the two tenements next lying on the north side of a great gate, entering into the Dean’s Court.

“ Item.—From the aforesaid wall, along from the north, southward, unto Hugh Paine’s dwelling house; and from thence, by the north side of the said Hugh Paine’s garden, sanctuary still, from the west unto the east part thereof.

“ Item.—Again, from the north side of the above rehearsed Hugh Paine’s garden, southwards, unto the dean’s garden, sanctuary.





“ Item.—Along by the wall on the north side of the dean’s garden, from the west unto the east thereof, sanctuary.

“ Item.—From the north unto the south of the aforesaid dean’s garden, with St. Leonard’s church, sanctuary, as by a wall it there sheweth.

“ Item.—From the east end of St. Leonard’s church, westward of the south of St. Martin’s, unto the Bell Alley, sanctuary; as appeareth also by another wall there.

“ Item.—From the Bell Alley, southward, unto the wall spoken of at the beginning, which is within the grocer’s house, against the post that standeth within the midst of the same house, and so forth, directly again into the channel of the High Street, that lyeth before the south gate of St. Martin’s. All within the bounds rehearsed, sanctuary.”

Thus far the Abbot of Westminster’s Declaration, at which time, as it appears, the disputes concerning the exact precincts of this sanctuary ran so high, that the matter was obliged to be referred to a jury. Of their depositions, a part only has been preserved, and is as follows:—

“ Item.—The said Henry Williamson deposeth for the claimed bounds; and also for the privilege of sanctuary men, in the half street and lane next to St. Martin’s, and for the setting up of the gallows on Evil May Day, and for the removing thereof, as others therein before have deposed.

“ Item.—Ralph Tewyn deposeth, all wholly the claimed bounds to be sanctuary, and also the setting up of the gallows, and removing of the same; and

the pavement to be done by the abbot; and that he knew one Bland, privileged both for treason and murder, ever used to walk in the street claimed as sanctuary, without any disturbance.

“Item.—William Bayley deposeth all the claimed bounds, and also the sitting of the justices in the south gate; and that he heard the justices say, that half the street against the said gate was sanctuary, and that there were persons therein arraigned, and others therein deposed; and that he knew the said Bland, privileged for treason and felony, to dwell in Angel Alley, and that the abbot ought to make the pavement, as others have deposed there.

“Item.—John Smith, clerk, deposeth for all the claimed bounds, and further saith, that he knew Dr. Morton, and also the Cardinal Morton to lie there, one in Roger Wright’s house, and the other in Angel Alley, they both being privileged for treason; and also, he supposeth both Angel Alley and Bland Alley, to be holden of St. Martin’s by certain rents, as parcel of the Earl of Northumberland’s tenements; and also, for the pavements as others have deposed.”

Besides the extent of sanctuary above claimed, the canons had before encroached on part of Noble Street, then described as ‘a certain way between Aldersgate and Cripplegate, leading by the hermitage there.’

Dean’s Court, Bell Alley, and Angel Alley or Street, we see from these documents, were names very early attaching to their respective sites; the others mostly arose after the suppression of the college. The s-

gular circumstance of the sanctuary bounds extending into the midst of Roger Wright's house, acquaints us with the interesting fact of cardinal Morton's having lodged there. His flight from hence to join Richmond's standard, on his invading the kingdom, was thought to be an important defection by Richard III;—according to Shakspeare—

“Morton with Richmond touching me more near  
Than Buckingham, and his rash levied numbers.”

At a very early date, the evil of living in the vicinity of St. Martin's was felt by the inhabitants, it being stated amongst the presentments respecting this ward in the 2nd. of Edward I. “That two walls had been illegally erected in Kyron Lane, one by Ralph le Bland, and the other by the Abbot of Warden, in order to prevent the insults of felons and harlots, their associates, particularly at night; and that a third wall had been built also, with the like intent, against the church of St. John Zachary by Simon de Portepool.”

The most curious picture we have, however, of the antient nature of this sanctuary, and the sort of offenders who took advantage of it, is in a set of regulations for its government of the age of Henry VI. when the enormities of the place had become so crying, that the king and his council were obliged to interfere. It shews us, at least, that we have not retrograded in the path of morality, for there is scarcely a modern piece of villainy which does not seem to have been here well known and practiced four centuries ago. It enumerates amongst the minor offenders,—

The "subtil pickers of locks, countefeitours of keys, contrivers of seales, forgers of false evidences, workers of counterfeit chaines, beades, broaches, ouches, rings, caps, spoones silvered, and plates of copper gilt, uttered for gold, unto the common hurt of the people." And amongst the greater offenders, not only traitors and murderers were privileged, as we have seen, but felons were suffered to issue out of the bounds, and commit depredations at noon day, and then to return to shelter, and to riot in their ill-gotten gains. Nay, though five of these fellows had hid themselves in Panier Alley, and rushed out and rescued a felon who was being conveyed by the sheriffs from Newgate they were defended on the score of church privilege, and screened from all punishment. It was therefore ordained, that all fugitives seeking sanctuary, should register themselves and their offences, and that on coming in, they should deliver up to the dean's officers all weapons and armour, except "a reasonable knife, to carve withall his meate," and that to be pointless.

Every known errant and open thief, murderer, and felon, requiring sanctuary, was to find security that he did not there commit further mischief, under colour of his privilege; and if any such, having so done, should after bring in stolen goods, they were to be *restored*; as were also any sorts of merchandize a debtor might rob his creditor of, with the intention of living upon whilst in sanctuary; and every "sanctuary man" "who might issue out by day or by night, and commit or do any robbery, murder, treason, felony or battery," on his return, was to be confined in the dean's prison,—unless he chose to depart, and then he

was to depart at an hour to be assigned him by day, "betwixt sunne and sunne."

"Common putuers, strumpets, and bawdes," were not to be allowed; deceitful games, "as plays at hazard, the dice, the guck, the kayelles, the cloysh, and other such unlawful and reprobable games." And finally, "all artificers dwelling within the sanctuary, as well *barbours* as others," were to keep not only the Sundays, but other great festivals, without breach or exercise of their craft, on pain of being *committed to ward*, or put into the dean's prison."

It would be tedious here to enter into a detail of privileges now no longer in existence; it may be observed, however, as proof of the importance of the church or chapel here, that it is constantly styled in old records, 'The King's Free Chapel of St. Martin's, London,' and that its right in consequence to be only visited by the king's commissioners was strenuously insisted upon. Thus we find in the reign of Edward I. that an attempt being made by the Archdeacon of Middlesex to encroach on this right, it was commanded the sheriff to attach the same archdeacon; and the king afterwards issued a second mandamus, ordering, because Adam de Phileby, a canon of the same church, was in parts beyond sea on the king's business, that this question of jurisdiction should be no further agitated until his return; and that in the mean time, nothing should be done prejudicial to the crown therein.

The advowson and possessions of St. Martin's-le-grand, valued at 266*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* having been given to the abbots of Westminster, by Henry VII. in

support of his new chapel there; and in consequence whereof, the contest took place respecting its boundaries, those abbots assumed the office of deans of St. Martins; and the duties of the prebends were performed by vicars of their appointment; from which time, the jurisdiction of the college being merged in that of Westminster Abbey, little worthy notice occurs, if we except the restrictions imposed for regulating this before much abused privilege of sanctuary. By a statute, 22 Henry VIII. it was enacted, that "none of the said places should give immunity or defence to any person who should commit wilful murder, rape, burglary, robbery on the highway, or in any house, church, or chapel; or should wilfully burn any house or barn with corn." Henry VIII. also passed an act, debarring persons accused of high treason from the benefit of sanctuary, and ordained that sanctuary men should wear badges, and not go abroad before sun-rising, nor after sun-setting; and, finally, the privilege of sanctuary altogether was repealed by James I.

In 1547, St. Martin's coming to the crown, its chapel was levelled, together with the rest of the college-buildings, and a number of new houses were erected on their site. These let at high rents to foreigners, who, claiming the privileges attached to the sanctuary, were allowed here to exercise their callings without molestation from the city. At the east end of the chapel, a large wine tavern was afterwards built, named from the reigning sovereign Elizabeth, the *Queen's Head*, and to this circumstance was probably owing the preservation of the crypt lately met with

beneath that building, these vaults happening to be the most appropriate possible for wine cellars. The other parts of the college site and liberty were chiefly inhabited by French, German, Dutch, and Scots. The trades carried on there were those of shoemakers, tailors, makers of buttons and button moulds, goldsmiths, manufacturers of pouches or purses, stationers, and merchants. There were also two throwsters or weavers of silk thread, who are recorded as being the first that practised that art in this country. Each of these particular trades at first had its own quarter, but they afterwards got mixed. "Mouldmaker's Row," amongst the old courts pulled down, clearly marks the spot occupied by the mouldmakers; and as early as the reign of Henry VII. we see the shoemakers here gave name to Shoemaker's Row, now forming the west side of St. Martin's-le-grand.

In 1593, a census being taken, the population of St. Martin's-le-grand is stated as follows:—

*Aldersgate,—St. Martin's-le-grand.*

Strangers .....	57	}	Denysons .....	45
			Non-denysons .....	12
Their children .....	112		English born servants, set on	
Men & women servants	115		work by strangers . . . .	0

The situation of the post office in Lombard Street, having been found inconvenient for want of space, and it being determined to remove the business to a more central situation, the precinct of St. Martin's-le-grand was selected, as well calculated for the erection of a new post office on an enlarged plan,

and an act of parliament was passed in 1815, making all necessary provisions for clearing the area, formerly occupied by the church and sanctuary of St. Martin.

In making the requisite excavations in the summer of 1818, the workmen laid open two ranges of vaults, which had served as cellars to the houses above, one of which was the wine cellar of the Queen's Head alluded to, and was most likely the work of William of Wickham. This was in the pointed style of Edward III. The second, or westernmost, which must have supported the nave, consisted of a building of very massy construction, and of the earliest sort of masonry: its original form and extent, from the curtailment of former building on the spot, could not be precisely defined; but it had the appearance of a square vaulted chamber, divided by piers of at least six feet square; in this vault was found a coin of Constantine, and a stone coffin, in which was a skeleton, (an evidence that the cavity must have been unknown and closed up since the suppression.) Whether the vestiges described, were those of a structure erected by the Romanised Britons, or by their successors the Anglo-Saxons is not clear, but the remains were evidently of great age, and, at all events, a very little digging lower down, discovered undoubted Roman remains, in great abundance. Most of these were dispersed, but several are yet preserved, as has been already mentioned. There were also numerous tradesmen's tokens, and other remains of after ages found in and about the foundations which were removed.



## THE NEW POST OFFICE.

So many accounts of this grand edifice have been laid before the public, that a very slight description of it will suffice in this place.

The architect of the present pile, is R. Smirke, Esq. It occupies the whole of the space between St. Martin's-le-grand and Foster Lane in breadth, and extends from the back of the houses in Cheapside to those in St. Anne's Lane in length. The architecture is characterised, like the dress of the Roman matrons, by an excessive severity, yet has all the dignity of a vast national pile, devoted to commercial purposes. The principal front in St. Martin's-le-grand, has a portico of eight fluted Ionic columns in the centre, six in front, and two in flank, surmounted by a pointed pediment; and at the extremities of the front, two other porticos, each of which is composed of four columns of the same order, standing on a stylobate, and containing the entablature of the order, which is continued as a finish round the whole building. The intercolumniations are pierced with windows, and the spaces between these and the centre portico have each fourteen windows, in two series: these parts of the building are flanked with sunk areas.

The other fronts of the building are of noble appearance, but exceedingly plain, and all pierced with numerous windows. Of the interior, it is enough to say, that it is in every respect completely adapted to the purposes of its erection, consisting of almost an infinity of parts, yet together forming an harmonious

whole. The grand hall, flanked on each side with lofty Ionic colonnades of columns, corresponding with those of the exterior, has a magnificent effect. An ample area surrounds the entire pile, fenced in by an elegant iron railing. Commanding views are to be obtained of this grand building from different stations, but its fine proportions mass with most effect on entering town from Aldersgate Street, particularly about the entrance to Falcon Square, where the newly-fronted end of St. Botolph's Church, the buildings of the Bull and Mouth Inn beyond it, the Post Office, and the Cathedral of St. Paul, towering in the distance, will, with other new erections on this spot, when finished in the style which is intended, altogether form a groupe of buildings unrivalled by those of any other part of the metropolis.

The former state of St. Martin's-le-grand, with the sites of the various courts and dwellings covered by the new post office, together with a fine ground-plan of that building itself, will be found accurately laid down in the frontispiece, which has been reduced, by permission, from the plan made under the direction of the architect, R. Smirke, Esq. The additional interest it confers on this tract cannot fail to be appreciated by its readers.

**AN ACCOUNT**  
**OF THE ANTIENT**  
**MOURNING BUSH TAVERN,**  
**ALDERSGATE,**  
**&c.**

A N A C C O U N T  
OF  
THE ANTIENT  
MOURNING BUSH TAVERN,  
*ALDERSGATE, &c.*

---

RESEARCH has failed to produce much respecting the old Mourning Bush Tavern, by Aldersgate, further than to satisfy us that it was highly celebrated in its day, and must from its remains have been one of the largest and most antient taverns in London. The history of such a place, had it been preserved, would no doubt have abounded with amusing anecdote. No account, however, has transpired that we have heard of, and, independently of the interest arising from its age, and some other circumstances which will be hereafter noticed, we only find a single historical fact concerning it,—the modern version of which is thus given, in a dissertation on *signs*, in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1818;—the conclusion expresses a wish, which the reader will see is at length adopted.

“ An innkeeper in Aldersgate Street, London, when Charles I. was beheaded, had the carved representation of a *bush* at his house painted *black*, and the tavern was long afterwards known by the

name of the MOURNING BUSH, IN ALDERSGATE; *I wish that the sign was revived, as a memorial of a man, who had the courage so conspicuously to display his loyalty at such a time to his unfortunate sovereign, 'more sinned against than sinning.'*"

The inaccuracy of the writer here in designating the landlord of the Mourning Bush Tavern, an *inn-keeper*, instead of a *vintner*, makes nothing against the truth of the story, which is told also in works of the civil war period, and is corroborated elsewhere; \* like the BUSH, the principal tavern at Bristol, and the IVY-BUSH, the head inn at Caermarthen, the sign mentioned, no doubt originated in the practice of hanging a *bush* at the door of vintner's houses, whence the proverb, "good wine needs no bush." *Ivy* was chosen for this purpose with classical propriety, that plant being sacred to Bacchus, whose thyrsus it entwined, and it is accordingly often alluded to by old writers:—

"Now a days the good wyne needeth none *ivye garland*."

GAŒCOIGNE'S GLASS OF GOV'.

"'Tis like the *ivy bush* unto a tavern."

RIVAL FRIENDS.

\* Hearne copied the following anecdote of a similar nature from a paper in the hand-writing of Dr. Richard Rawlinson:—"Of Daniel Rawlinson who kept the Mitre Tavern in Fenchurch Street, and of whose being suspected in the *Rump* time I have heard much. The Whigs tell this, that upon the king's murder, *he hung his sign in mourning*: he certainly judged right. The honour of the mitre was much eclipsed through the loss of so good a parent to the church of England.

"These rogues say, this endeared him so much to the churchmen, that he soon throve amain, and got a good estate."

TAVERN ANECDOTES, 1825.

"Green ivy bushes at the vintner's door."

SUMMERS' LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.

"The good wine I produce needs no ivy bush."

SUMMARY ON DU BARTUS.—*To the Reader.*

Rosalind's "*Good wine needs no bush*," in the Epilogue to *As you Like It*, also refers to this same custom, though the species of bush, *ivy*, is not named.\*

Mr. Fosbroke (*Dictionary of Antiquities*,) mentions the *Bush* as the chief sign of taverns in the middle ages, and tells us it continued until at length

\* The subsequent passage seems to prove, that antiently tavern-keepers kept both a *bush* and a *sign*: a host is speaking.

"I rather will take down my *bush* and *sign*

Than live by means of riotous expence."

GOOD NEWES AND BAD NEWES, by S. R. 4to. Lond. 1622.

In "*England's Parnassus*," 4to. Lond. 1600, the first line of the Address to the Reader runs thus:—"I hang no ivie out to sell my wine;" and in "*Brathwaite's Strappado for the Divell*," 8vo. Lond. 1615, there is a dedication to Bacchus, "sole sovereign of the *ivy-bush*, prime founder of red lattices, &c."

And in "*Vaughan's Golden Grove*," 8vo. Lond. 1608, is the following passage:—"Like as an *ivy-bush* put forth at a *vintrie* is not the cause of the wine, but a *signe* that wine is to be sold there, so likewise if we see smoke appearing in a chimney, wee know that fire is there: albeit, the smoke is not the cause of the fire." And the following from Harris's *Drunkard's Cup*:—"Nay, if the house be not worth an *ivy-bush*, let him have his tooles about him, nutmegs, rosemary, tobacco, with other the appurtenances, and he knowes how of puddle-ale to make a cup of English wine."

And as late as 1678, as we find by Poor Robin's *Perambulation from Saffron Walden to London*," printed that year, ale-houses where they also sold wine, denoted the same by hanging out a *bush*.

"Some ale-houses upon the road I saw,

And some with bushes, showing they wine did drawe."

it was superseded by "a thing intended to resemble one, containing three or four tiers of hoops fastened one above another, with vine leaves and grapes richly carved and gilt." He adds, "The owner of the MOURNING BUSH, ALDERSGATE, was so affected at the decollation of Charles I. *that he painted his bush black.*"

That the Mourning Bush, or rather the Bush Tavern, existed ages before the anecdote alluded to, there are various evidences besides the antiquity of its foundations, though we have no means of ascertaining its precise age. The sign alone, would rank it amongst the earliest London taverns, as the affixing the ivy-bush at the door, we see was a practice of remote date, and when used as the *only sign* of the house it was attached to, it marked in it a still higher date. Considering then, that the alteration by its loyal owner alone carries us back nearly two centuries, and that it was at this period no doubt, an old house, it will not at all be assuming too much to suppose the bush might have been coeval with the most flourishing times of St. Martin's-le-grand College. This conjecture is strengthened by reverting to the then state of the neighbourhood, and the utility such a house must have been of, so situated. When Aldersgate Street was a mere country road from the north parts of the kingdom, bounded on its west side the whole distance between Long Lane and Little Britain, by Bartholomew priory wall, and the numerous alder trees which are said to have given this thoroughfare its name; and, on its opposite side, equally dreary, was only the great burial

ground of the Jews, with scarcely a cheerful dwelling; a house for refreshment immediately the traveller entered the city gate might be reasonably expected; and where could such a house be so appropriately situated, as between St. Anne's Church and the gate? All the space on the other side was occupied with Northumberland house and gardens—the town mansion of the gallant Percies; that is to say, when they were in town: for the business of these great peers, was chiefly in the camp, as Pennant observes, “which they seldom quitted for London, but to brave the sovereign or the favorite.”

What public houses there were within St. Martin's Liberty, being “*sanctuary*,” would be closed at nine o'clock at night, with the closing of the college gates. We repeat, therefore, where could the traveller on entering town from the great north road, be likely to be more commodiously and readily suited—as he may still—than at the Bush, which besides its convenient situation, pleasantly overlooking the “Dean's Garden,” must have enjoyed an atmosphere as unconfined and salubrious, as it does now from the open and magnificent area of the New Post Office?

A few observations respecting our antient taverns will, perhaps, be not inappropriately introduced here, in the paucity of information which exists relative to the Mourning Bush.

Though the “win-hous,” or tavern, is enumerated amongst the houses of entertainment in the Saxon times, and no doubt existed here much earlier, there is reason to think, that down to a comparatively



late period it was far from common, as was the case also with public inns. Monasteries were the usual places at these remote dates which afforded relief to the traveller. Lord Berkeley's farm houses, in the part of the country where they stood, were used instead, in the time of Edward I. and some who could not be otherwise accommodated, not only enquired out hospitable persons, but even applied for entertainment at the king's palaces. Knights lodged in barns, and John Rous, the monk, who mentions a celebrated inn on the Warwick road, was yet forced himself to go another way for want of one.

Their utility had become apparent before Edward II. for a statute of the 12th of that prince, in order that the public might not be injured, forbids officers in towns and boroughs—whose duty it was to keep assizes of wine and victuals, to merchandize themselves for either, on pain of forfeiture to the king.

The dealers in wine at the above period, and long before, were of two descriptions; the *vinterarij* and the *tavernarij*, that is, the vintners, who were the merchants that imported wine from France and other places, and the taverners who kept taverns for them, and sold it out by retail to such as came thither to drink, or fetched it to their own houses. Of both these sellers of wine it was a complaint as long ago as the reign of Edward III. that they mixed and corrupted their wine, and sold that so mixed at the same price with the good, which caused that king in the second year of his reign, to send his letters to the mayor and sheriffs to see this abuse corrected; which

was, as the expression in the said letter is, to the scandal of the city, and the danger of the lives of the citizens ; and that they should cause it to be proclaimed, that no wine should be sold but pure and good ; and that it might be known immediately to be so, it was ordered to be proclaimed, “ That all and singular persons drinking wine in taverns, or otherwise buying wine from them, may *look* as they will, whether the wines so sold, as aforesaid in taverns, *be drawn out of the hogshead, or taken from elsewhere.*”

The act of parliament of the 4th of the same prince, enforces in more distinct terms the prohibition in the proclamation as to taverners, and prescribes various regulations for the conducting of their trade. It states :—

“ Because there be more *taverns* in the realm than were wont to be, selling as well corrupt wine as wholesome, and have sold the gallon at such price as they themselves would, because there was no punishment ordained for them, as hath been to them who sold *bread and ale*, to the great hurt of the people ; it should be accorded, that a cry should be made, that none be so hardy to sell wines but at a reasonable price, regarding the price by the price at the parts from whence the wines came ; and the expences, as in carriage of the same from the said parts to the places where they be sold ; and that assay should be made of such wines two times in every year, once at Easter, and another time at Michaelmas, and more often if need be, by the lords of the towns, and their bailiffs, and also by the mayor and bailiffs of the same towns ; and all the

wines that shall be found corrupt, (putrified,) shall be shadde and cast out, and the vessels broken; and the chancellor and treasurer, justices of the one bench, and the other, and justices of assize, shall have power to enquire upon the mayor, bailiffs, and ministers of towns, if they did not according to this statute; and besides that, to punish as reason should require." And the more effectually to hinder the importation of bad wines, as well as the adulteration of the good by retailers, the same king Edward III. afterwards in the 35th of his reign, in his letters patent for regulating the guild or company of vintners, prohibits any to deal in Gascoigne wines "but such alone as were enfranchised in the craft of vintrie:" and we may here observe, in contradiction to some old writers, that the trade are nowhere in the said letters patent called "wine-tonners," (which is said to be the original of vintners,) but "vinteners," and "merchants vinteners," and "merchants of vintrie."

Chaucer makes his idle city apprentice a great tavern haunter soon after this period:—

" A prentis whilom dwelt in our citee,—  
 At ev'ry bridale wold he sing and hoppe;  
 He loved bet' the *Tavern* than the shoppe,  
 For whan ther any riding was in Chepe,  
 Out of the shoppe thider wold he lepe;  
 And til that he had all the sight yseih  
 And dancid wel, he wold not com agen."

As to the retail of wines, it was ordained by statute of Richard II. "That of wines of Gascoigne, of Osey, and of Spain, brought within the realm by English-

men, the gallon of the best wine should not be sold above six-pence, and within, according to the value; and as to the Rhenish wines brought within the same realm," (because the vessels and the gallons of the same did not contain any certain measure,) "it was accorded and assented, that the gallon of the best should also not be above six-pence," and they were to be compelled to sell them at these prices. "And it not being the king's mind to restrain taverners, and other sellers of wines carrying the same into the country by carts, or in any other manner, they were allowed to enhance the price accordingly, viz.—a halfpenny a gallon was to be allowed for the carriage for fifty miles of every gallon, and so in proportion.

Agreeably to these ordinances, the antient assize of a taverner in the city of London states, "That he shall be non excessif taker more of the rede wyne of every galon, but 2nd wynnyng, (profit,) and of al oder swete wynnys, but 4d. wynnyng of the galon. And he shall set no maner of wyne a sale tyl he has sent aftyr the officers of the towne, that is to say, the mayor or bailiff, or the deputies assigned, for to tast it, and se that it be good and abul wyne; and his vessels to be gaugid, and so markyd upon the heddys; and there to be sworn afore the officers what it cost; and aftyr that, he for to sell; also he shall sell no wine, but by measure assized and selid." If the taverner did contrary to any of these regulations, he was to be amerced; and if he sold "any fectife (defective) wyne, his tavern door should be selid in," and he was to be further fined and judged according to the statute.

Not only did the importers of wines in those early times become immensely rich, and fill the highest civic offices, but even the retailers or taverners themselves frequently became sheriffs, and sometimes mayors—such were Brengeweve de Oxenford, Burgoin, Parys, Roffam, &c. all sheriffs; and Richard Bretayne, who was mayor 1 Edw. I.

The curious old ballad of London Lockpenny, written in the reign of Henry V. by Lydgate, a monk of Bury, confirms the statement of prices of Richard the II<sup>d</sup>'s reign. He represents a countryman come up to town to see the "sights" of London. In Eastcheap, the cooks cried hot ribs of beef roasted, pyes well baked, and other victuals; there was clattering of pots, harp, pipe, and sawtre, yea-by-cock, nay-by-cock, for greater oaths were spared; some sang of Jenkin and Julian, &c. He from hence comes to Cornhill, when the wine drawer of the Pope's Head tavern, standing without the door in the high street, for it was then the custom for these drawers to way-lay passengers like the barkers in Monmouth Street, takes the same man by the hand, and says—"Sir, will you drink a pint of wine? Whereunto the countryman answers, "A penny spend I may," and so drank his wine. "For bread nothing did he pay"—for that was given in."\*

So that it appears, there was no eating at taverns

\* The ballad itself states the matter different from the above account of Stowe, making the *Taverner*, and not the *Drawer*, invite the countryman; and the latter, instead of getting bread for nothing, complains of having to go away hungry:—

"The Taverner took me by the sleeve,  
 'Sir,' saith he, 'will you our wine assay?'  
 I answered—that much can't me greve.

beyond a crust to relish the wine, which was given in; and if you wished to dine before you drank, you must first go to the cook, and after to the vintner, or as Stowe has it—"Of old time, when friends did meet, and were disposed to be merry, they went not to dine and sup in taverns, for *they* dressed no meats to be sold, but to the *cook's*, where they called for what meat pleased them, which they always found ready dressed, and at a reasonable price." And the historian afterwards confirms this by the following anecdote:—In the year 1410, the 11th of Henry IV. upon the even of St. John the Baptist, the king's sons, Thomas and John, being in Eastcheap at supper, or rather breakfast, for it was after the watch was broken up, betwixt two or three of the clock after midnight, a great debate happened between their men and others of the court, which lasted one hour, even until the mayor and sheriffs, with other citizens appeased the same; for which afterwards the said mayor, aldermen, and sheriffs, were sent for to answer before the king, his sons and divers lords being highly moved against the city. At which time William Gascoigne, chief justice, required the mayor and aldermen, for the citizens, to put them in the king's grace. Whereupon they answered, that they had not offended, but, according to the law, had done their best in stopping debate, and maintaining of the peace; upon which answer the king remitted all his ire, and dismissed them."

A penny can do no more than it may :  
 I drank a pynt, and for it did pay ;  
 Yet sore a hung' red from thence I yede,  
 And wanting of money I could not spede."

The above statements make Strype,—Survey of London, 1720, assert, (notwithstanding the high treason of contradicting Shakespeare,) that there was at this period “no tavern in Eastcheap. The bard, however, living within the traditional memory of the thing, would most probably not be mistaken. It is also said by the commentators, and we believe so far must be admitted, that the furnishing the Boar’s Head with sack in the reign of Henry IV. is an anachronism; for the vintners kept neither sacks, muscadels, malmsies, bastards, alicants, nor any other wines but white and claret, until 1543, and then was old Parr, as himself relates, 60 years of age. All the other sweet wines before that time, were sold at the apothecary’s shops, for no other use, but for medicine.

Taking it as the picture of a tavern a century later, we see the alterations which had taken place:—

The single drawer or taverner of Lydgate’s day is now changed to a troop of waiters, of whom the prince jokes he can himself name half a dozen; besides alluding to “the under skinker” or tapster. Eating was no longer confined to the cook’s row, for we find by the enumeration in Falstaff’s bill—“a capon 2s. 2d. sack, 2 gallons, 5s. 8d. anchovies and sack after supper 2s. 6d. bread, one half-penny.” And there were evidently different rooms for the guests, partly furnished with modern conveniences. as Francis bids a brother waiter “Look down into the Pomgranite.”\* For which purpose it seems they

\* A successor of Francis was a waiter at the Boar’s Head in modern times, and had formerly a tablet with this inscription in St. Michael’s Crooked Lane church-yard, just at the back of the tavern;

had then windows or loop holes, affording a view from the upper to the lower apartments.

Many other particulars may be observed, tallying with the descriptions of taverns in the reigns of Elizabeth and James; such are the introduction of Doll Tearsheet, and the prince's simile respecting her, of the sun's being "a hot wench dressed in flame-coloured taffita"—the mention of "Sneak's Noise," or itinerant band of musicians, &c.

"You shall there see" (viz. at the low taverns) "a paire of harlots in taffita gowns, like painted posts, garnishing out those dores, being better to the house than a double signe."

"Neither were they any of those with terrible "*Noyses*" and threadbare cloakes, that live by *red lattises*† and *ivy-bushes*, having authority to thrust

"To the memory of Robert Preston, late drawer at the Boar's Head tavern in Great Eastcheap, who departed this life March 16, A.D. 1730, aged twenty-seven years." Also several lines of poetry quoted in Malcolm's *Londinum Redivivum*, setting forth Bob's sundry virtues, particularly his honesty and sobriety; in that—

"Tho' nurs'd among full hogsheads he defied  
The charms of wine, as well as other's pride."

He possessed also the singular virtue of drawing good wine, and of taking care to "fill his pots," as appears by the concluding lines of admonition.—

"Ye that on Bacchus have a like dependance,  
Pray copy Bob in measure and attendance."

† *Red lattuce*.—The chequers at this time a common sign of a public house, as indeed it is to this day, is originally thought to have been intended for the kind of draught-boards called *tables*, and showed that there the game might be played. From their colour, which was *red*, and the similarity to a *lattice*, it was corruptly called *red lattice*.

"———— his sign pulled down, and his lattice borne away."

So in "A Fine Companion," one of Shake:ly Marmion's plays:—  
"A waterman's widow, at the sign of the *Red Lattice* in Southwark "



into any man's roome, only speaking but this, "will you have any musique?"

Nothing has occasioned so much discussion amongst the commentators, as Falstaff's "Sack and Sugar," sack itself being supposed to be a sweet wine. That it was the custom, however, even in that case, to give additional sweetness by adding sugar, is attested by several old writers. Gascoigne observes—that "wine itself was not sufficient"—but "sugar, lemons, and spices must be drowned in the wine, which I never observed in any other place or kingdom to be used for that purpose." Fynes Moryson, a Scotch traveller, 1617, notices at that day, the mixing of sugar with every species of wine:—"Gentlemen drawers," says he, "with wine mix sugar; which I never observed in any other place or kingdom to be used for that purpose. And because the taste of the English is thus delighted with sweetmeats, the wine in taverns (for I speak not of merchant's or gentlemen's cellars) are commonly mixed at the filling thereof to make them pleasant."

We find also, from Sir John's comments on his favorite sack, that he added not only sugar, but a toast to it; that he had an implacable aversion to its being mulled with eggs, vehemently exclaiming—"I'll no pullets sperm in my brewage;" and that he abominated its sophistication with lime, declaring that a "coward is worse than a cup of sack with lime in it."—An expedient which the vintners used to increase its strength and durability.

The act 7 Edward VI. "For th' avoyding of many inconveniences, muche evil rule, and commune

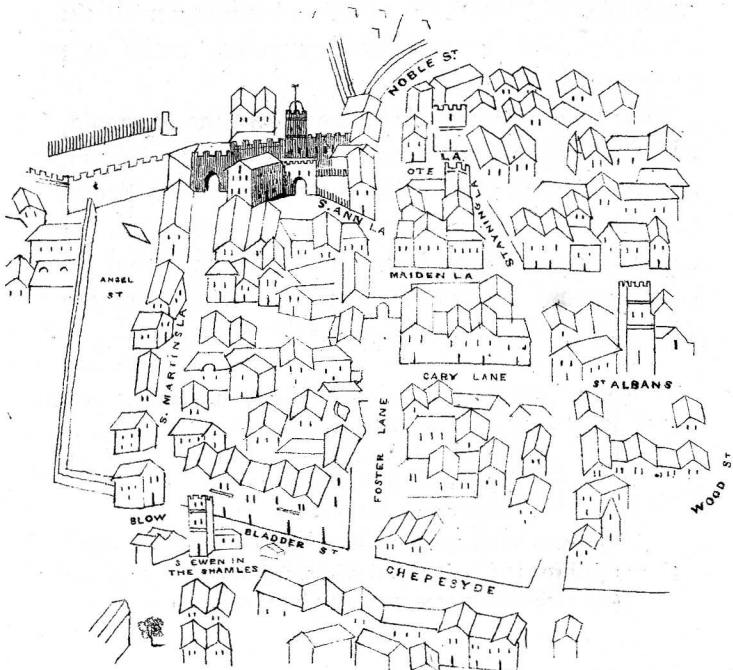
resorte of misruled persones, used and frequented in many taverns of late newly sett uppe in very greate numbre in backe lanes, corners, and suspicious places within the cytie of London, and in divers other townes and villages within this realm;" after regulating the price and quantity of wine which should be sold by retail dealers, viz:—that no more than 8*d.* per gallon, should be taken for any French wines—"by any maner of meanes, colour, engine, or crafte, &c." limited the yearly consumption of wine in private houses, to ten gallons each person, unless possessed of 100 marks per annum, or 1000 marks in property,—and ordered, that there should not be more than *two licenced taverns in any one town*, nor "any more or greater number in London of such tavernes or wine sellers by retaile, *above the number of fourtye tavernes or wyne sellers*;" being less than two, upon an average to each parish. Nor did this number much increase afterwards, for in a return made to the vintner's company late in Elizabeth's reign, there were only one hundred and sixty-eight in the whole city and suburbs.

As there is no reason to suppose but that the old Bush, Aldersgate, was continued as one of these "Select"—we may consider this as no small proof, in addition to others, of its importance. We know at least, from Stowe's description, that a house on this site, evidently a public one, was considerably enlarged a few years afterwards; and there appears no place to which it will apply but the Bush.

"This gate" (Aldersgate) "hath been at sundry times increased with building, namely, on the south

or *inner side*, a great frame of timber \* hath been added and set up, containing divers large rooms and lodgings,”—as these “large rooms could only be wanted in a house of public entertainment, the fair inference is, that this was an enlargement of the Bush; and agreeably to this fact, we find in the earliest plan we have of the metropolis, that by Ralph Aggas, A. D. 1560, a single house only, marked on this site, as adjoining the inner side of Aldersgate. The delineation is rude—but bears us out in the idea that it was intended as a representation of this tavern.

\* A frame of timber was then synonymous with house; the houses being at this time for the most part of wood lathed and plastered, with overhanging steries, as we still see them in some of the old streets.



The variety of wines in Elizabeth's reign, has not since been exceeded, and perhaps even equalled.

Harrison mentions fifty-six French, and thirty-six Spanish, Italian, and other wines ; to which must be added several home-made wines, as ipocras, clary, breket, and others.

From this period, and including the reign of James, taverns appear to have been very numerous ; and says bishop Erle, who wrote at the time, " to give you the total reckoning of it, they 're the busy man's recreation, the idle man's business, the melancholy man's sanctuary, the stranger's welcome, the inns of court men's entertainment, the scholar's kindness, and the citizen's curtesy." He adds, (as must be the case with all such accommodations when abused,) " the consumer and corrupter of the afternoon, and the murderer or maker away of a rainy day."

The Boar's Head, Eastcheap, and the Mermaid, Cornhill—immortalized by Shakspeare, Ben Jonson, and by Fletcher, are enumerated in a long list of taverns given us in an old black letter 4to. of the reign of Charles I. entitled, " Newes from St. Bartholomewe's Fayre." The title is lost, but the following are mentioned as some of the signs:—

“ There hath been great sale and utterance of wine,  
 Besides beere and ale and ipocras fine ;  
 In every country, region, and nation—  
 Closely at Billingsgate at the *Salutation*,  
 And *Bore's Head* near London stone,  
 The *Swan* at Dowgate, a taverne well knowne,  
 The *Miter* in Chepe, and then the *Bull Head*,  
 And suche like places that make noses red ;

The *Bore's Head* in Old Fish Street, *Three Cranes* in the Vintree,  
 And now of late *St. Martin's* in the sentree,  
 The *Windmill* in Lothbury, the *Ship* at the Exchange,  
*King's Head* in New Fish Streete, where roysters do range,  
 The *Mermaid* in Cornhill, *Red Lion* in the Strand,  
*Three Tuns* Newgate Market, Old Fish Street at the *Swan*.

This enumeration omits the *Bush*, and many of the oldest London signs, as the *Pope's Head*, the *London Stone*, the *Dagger*, the *Rose and Crown*, &c. which most likely are mentioned in another part of it, at least they should, if it pretends to give anything like a general catalogue of the taverns then known. From the supposed age of different signs, it will also appear, that most of the above were of comparatively late date; for Mr. Foshbroke tells us rightly, in his notices of tavern signs, after stating that the *Bush* was the oldest,—that the *Bull*, *Ram*, *Angel*, *Red Lion*, and such like, were of after growth, and evidently heraldic, as supporters of arms, taken from respect to some great lord or master, and formed upon the nature of dependants and servants wearing badges of their lord's arms.

The *Painted Tavern*, adjoining the *Three Cranes*, in that Vintry, is mentioned by Stowe as existing in the time of Richard II. It nearly adjoined the great house termed the Vintry, underneath which were extensive wine vaults, for depositing such wine as should be landed at the wharf. The story of Sir Henry Picard, vintner and lord mayor, feasting here four kings, in 1350, is well known.

In the play—"If You Know not Me, You Know Nobody," with the "Building of the Royal Ex-

change," &c. 1608, the apprentices of old Hobson, a rich citizen, in 1560, frequent the *Rose and Crown*, in the Poultry, and the *Dagger*, in Cheapside.

*Enter Hobson, Two Prentices, and a Boy.*

1 PREN. Prithce, fellow Goodman, set forth the ware, and looke to the shop a little. I'll but drink a cup of wine with a customer, at the Rose and Crown in the Poultry, and come again presently.

2 PREN. I must needs step to the *Dagger in Cheape*, to send a letter into the country unto my father. Stay, boy, you are the youngest prentice; look you to the shop.

Ben Jonson found the best canary at the "Swanne," by Charing Cross, and was so delighted with the drawer's attention, that in some extempore lines made by him, by way of grace, before king James, and which Aubrey has given in his "Lives," he contrived to lug in the lad's name with his own, as a conclusion:—

" Our king and queen the Lord God bless,  
The palsgrave, and the lady Besse;  
And God bless every living thing,  
That lives, and breathes, and loves the king.  
God bless the council of estate,  
And Buckingham the fortunate.  
God bless them all, and send them safe—  
And God bless me, and God bless *Ralph*."

The king was anxious to know who Ralph was, and when informed by the poet, that it was the drawer at the Swan, who drew him better canary than he could get any where else, laughed, it is said, heartily at the conceit.

Many curious particulars attach to the wine houses of this period. Amongst others, a passage in

“Look About You,” (1600) says “The drawers kept sugarfolded up in paper, ready for those who called for sack;” and we further find in other old tracts, that the custom existed of bringing two cups, of *silver*, in case the wine should be wanted to be diluted, and that this was done by rose-water and sugar, generally about a penny-worth. A sharper in the “Belman of London,” being described as having decoyed a countryman to a tavern, “calls for two pintes of sundry wines, the drawer setting the wine with *two cups*, as the custome is, the sharper tastes of one pinte; no matter which, and finds fault with the wine, saying, ‘tis too hard; but rose-water and sugar, would send it downe merrily’—and for that purpose he takes up one of the cups, telling the stranger he is well acquainted with the boy at the barre, and can have two-pennyworth of rose-water for a penny of him; and so steps from his seate; the stranger suspects no harme, because the fawne guest leaves his cloake at the end of the table behind him,—but the other takes good care not to return, and it is then found that he hath stolen ground, and out-leaped the stranger more feet than he can recover in haste, for the cup is leaped with him, for which the wood-cock, that is taken in the springe, must pay fifty shillings, or three pounds, and hath nothing but an old threadbare cloake not worth two groats to make amends for his losses.”

Another similar low scene of villiany, and laid at one of the taverns of this period, is told by the above old author. It is the account of a countryman, who is

decoyed into one of those places by three associates,—and of course plucked.

“ The stage on which they play their prologue, is either in Fleet Street, the Strand, or Paule’s, and most commonly in the afternoon, when countie clyents are at most leasure to walke in those places, or for dispatch of their business travel from lawyer to lawyer, through Chancerie Lane, Holborne, and such like places. In this heat of runing to and fro, if a plaine fellowe, well and cleanly apparrelled, either in home-spun russet or frieze, (as the season requires,) with a side pouch at his girdle, happen to appear in his rusticall likeness. ‘ There is a couzin,’ says one, at which word out flyes the decoy, and thus gives the onset upon my olde *penny-father*. “ Sir, God save you! you are welcome to London! How doe all good friends in the countie? I hope they be well? The russetting amazed at these salutations of a stranger replies, ‘ Sir, all our friends in the countie are in health; but pray pardon me; I know you not, believe me;—‘ No!’ answers the other, ‘ are you not a Lancashire man?’ or of such a countie? If he saies, ‘ yes,’ then seeing the fish nibbles, he gives him more line to play with; if he say, ‘ no,’ then attacks he him with another weapon, and swears soberly, ‘ In good sooth, Sir, I know your face, I am sure wee have bene merie together; I pray (if I may beg it without offence,) bestow your name upon mee, and your dwelling-place!’ The innocent man, suspecting no poison in this gilded cup, tells him presently his name and abiding—by what gentleman he dwells, &c. which being done, the decoy,



for thus interrupting him in his way, and for the wrong in mistaking him for another, *offers a quart of wine*. If the cozen be such an asse to goe into a TAVERNE, then he is sure to bee ‘unkled’; but if he smack my decoy, and smell gunpowder-traines, yet wil not be blown up, they part fairly; and to a comrade goes the decoy, discovering what he hath done, and acquaints *him* with the man’s name, countrie, and dwelling; who hastening after the countryman, and contriving to cross his way and meet him full in the face, takes acquaintance presently of him, salutes him by his name, inquires how such and such a gentleman doe that dwell in the same town by him, and albeit the honest *hobnail-wearer* can by no means bee brought to remember this new friend, yet will he, nill he, to the TAVERNE he sweares to have him, and to bestowe upon him the best wine in London; and being come here, they are soon joined by two or three associates, who drop in as strangers, and, who having by some trick or other contrived to fleece the simpleton, and make him completely drunke, steal off one by one, and meet at another taverne to share their plunder;—which is the epilogue to their comedie, but the first entrance (scene) to the poore countryman’s tragedie.”

The following from the “*Microsmography*” of Dr. Erle, could only apply to the lowest species of tavern.—

“A taverne is a degree, or if you will, a paire of staires above an ale-house, where men get drunk with more credit and apology. If the vintner’s rose be at door, it is sign sufficient, but the absence of this is supplied by the *ivy-bush*.”

And again :—

“ The whole furniture of these places consists of a stool, a table, and a *pot de chambre*.”

The concluding article of the list reminds one of Falstaff’s calling out to “ *empty the jordan*.”

That the above is mere satire, however, or that it must apply rather to something like our modern wine-cellars than to taverns, will be evident from what Dekker tells us near this very time :—

“ They had,” says he, “ regular ordinaries, and of three kinds, namely, *an ordinary of the longest reckoning*, whither most of your courtly gallants do resort ; *a twelve-penny ordinary*, frequented by the justice of the peace and young knight ; and a *three-penny ordinary*, to which your London usurer, your stale batchelor, and your thrifty attorney doth resort.”

That the conjunction of vintner and victualler had now become common, and would require other accommodations than those mentioned by the bishop, even in the poorest houses of entertainment, is also shewn in the play of the “ *New Way to Pay Old Debts*,” where Justice Greedy makes Tapwell’s keeping no victuals in his house, an excuse for pulling down his sign.

“ Thou never hadst in thy house to stay men’s stomachs,  
A piece of suffolk cheese, or gammon of bacon,  
Or any esculent, as the learned call it,  
For their emoulment, *but sheer drink only*.  
For which gross fault I here do damn thy licence,  
Forbidding thee henceforth to tap or draw ;  
For instantly I will in mine own person,  
Command the constable to pull down thy sign,  
And do’t before I eat.”

And the decayed vintner, who afterwards applies to Wellborn for payment of his tavern score, answers on his enquiring who he is.

“ A decay'd vintner, Sir,  
That might have thriv'd, but that your worship broke me,  
With trusting you with muscadine and eggs,  
And *five-pound suppers*, with your after drinkings,  
When you lodged upon the Bankside.”

Another corroboration of these establishments then being on a very superior footing, is given us also by Dekker. It was, he informs us, usual for taverns, especially in the *city*, to send presents of wine from *one room to another* as a complimentary mark of friendship, “ Enquire,” directs he, “ what gallants sup in the next room ; and if they *be of your acquaintance*, do not, *after the city fashion*, send them in a *pottle of wine and your name.*” This custom too is recorded by Shakespeare, as a mode of introduction to a stranger. When Bardolph at the Castle Inn, Windsor, addressing Falstaff says, “ Sir John, there's a master Brooke below would fain speak with you, and would be acquainted with you, and hath sent your worship a morning's draught of sack ;” a passage which Mr. Malone has illustrated by the following contemporary anecdote. “ Ben Jonson,” he relates, “ was at a tavern, and in comes Bishop Corbet, (but not then a prelate,) into the next room. Ben Jonson calls for a quart of *raw* wine, and gives it to the tapster. “ Sirrah,” says he, “ carry this to the gentleman in the next chamber, and tell him I sacrifice my service to him ;” the fellow did so, and in the same words. “ Friend,” says Dr. Corbet, “ I thank

him for his love, but prithee, tell him from me, that he is mistaken, for sacrifices are always *burnt*."

Many of the London taverns were indeed of high respectability: the famous Robinhood society is said, in the history of that establishment, (8vo. 1716,) to have began from a meeting of the editor's grandfather with the great Sir Hugh Middleton, of New River memory, at the *London Stone Tavern* in Cannon Street, (therein stated, but certainly not correctly, to be the *oldest* in London;) whence the society afterwards removed successively to the Essex Head, Devereux Court, Temple, and finally to the Robinhood, Butcher Row, from whence they took name. King Charles II. was introduced to this society, disguised, by Sir Hugh, and liked it so well that he came thrice afterwards. "He had," says the narrative, "a piece of black silk over his left cheek, which almost covered it; and his eyebrows, which were quite black, he had by some artifice or other converted to a light brown, or rather flaxen colour; and had otherwise disguised himself so effectually in his apparel and his looks, that nobody knew him but Sir Hugh by whom he was introduced."

The following are named as celebrated London taverns, in the newspapers of the civil-war period:—

The Sun, Cateaton Street.

Tobacco Roll, Smithfield.

Harp and Ball, Charing Cross.

Ram, Smithfield.

Plough, St. Paul's.

Crane, ditto.

Haymakers, Whitechapel.

Spotted Leopard, Aldersgate Street.

The Dog and Bull, Fleet Street.  
 Turk's Head, Cornhill.  
 Anchor and Mariner, Tower Hill.  
 Goat's Neck, Ivy Bridge, Strand.  
 Hercules Pillars, Fleet Street.  
 Unicorn, Cornhill.  
 Ship, St. Paul's  
 Greyhound Tavern, Blackfriars.  
 Gun, Ivy Lane.  
 Maidenhead and Castle, Piccadilly,  
 Black Spread Eagle, Fleet Street.  
 Stag's Head, St. Paul's.  
 Crown and Garter, St. Mary's Hill.  
 Elephant and Castle, Temple Bar.  
 Goat's Head, St. James's.  
 Hat and Feathers, Strand.

Ned Ward, London Spy, 1709, mentions the Rose tavern, Poultry, antiently the Rose and Crown, as existing in his time, and famous for good wine.—

“ There was no parting without a glass, so we went into the Rose tavern in the Poultry, where the wine, according to its merit, had justly gained a reputation; and there, in a snug room, warmed with brash and faggot, over a quart of good claret, we laughed over our night's adventure.”

The Angel, Fenchurch Street, and the King's Head, Chancery Lane, also come in for a share of our author's praise:—

From hence, pursuant to my friend's inclination, we adjourned to the sign of the Angel, in Fenchurch Street, where the vintner, like a double-dealing citizen, condescended as well to draw carmen's comfort as the consolatory juice of the vine.”

“ Having at the King's Head well freighted the hold of our vessels with excellent food and delicious

wine, at a small expence, we scribbled the following lines with chalk upon the wall, then took our departure, and steered for a more temperate climate:—

“ To speak the truth of my honest friend Ned,  
 The best of all vintners that ever was made ;  
 He’s free of his *beef*, and as free of his *bread*,  
 And washes down both with a glass of rare *red*  
 That tops all the town, and commands a good trade ;  
 Such wine as will cheer up the drooping *King’s Head*,  
 And brisk up the soul, though the body’s half dead.”

Besides uniting the business of a vintner and victualler, and even adding, as the above extracts informs us, the drawing of “ *carmen’s comfort*,” we find in other respects the whole economy of our antient taverns changed about this time. Among other alterations, the facetious Ned Ward informs us, that the bar-maid, with a number of waiters, had completely superseded the antient drawers and tappers:—

“ As soon as we came to the bar, a thing started up all ribbon, lace, and feathers, and made such a noise with her bell and her tongue together, that had half a dozen paper-mills been at work within three yards of her, they’d have signified no more to her clamorous voice than so many lutes to a drum, which alarmed two or three nimble-heeled fellows aloft, who shot themselves down stairs with as much celebrity as a mountebank’s mercury upon a rope from the top of a church steeple, every one charged with a mouthful of coming, coming, coming !”

He further illustrates the qualifications of the bar-maid, (generally the vintner’s daughter,) in another place, by describing her as “ bred at the dancing

school, becomes a bar well, steps a minuet finely, plays sweetly on the virginals, 'John come kiss me now, now, now,' and is as proud as she is handsome;" in fact, a second Polly in the Beggar's Opera, only less amiable.

Tom Brown at the same time speaks of the flirt of the bar-maid:—

"That fine lady that stood pulling a rope, and screaming like a peacock against rainy weather, pinned up by herself in a little pew, all people bowing to her as they passed by, as if she was a goddess set up to be worshipped, armed with the chalk and sponge, (which are the principal badges that belong to that honourable station you beheld her in,) was the *bar-maid*."

And of the nimbleness of the waiters, Ward says in another place:—"That the chief use he saw in the Monument was, for the improvement of vintner's boys and drawers, who came every week to exercise their supporters, and learn the tavern trip, by running up to the balcony and down again."

Owen Swan, at the Black Swan tavern, Bartholomew Lane, is thus apostrophised by Tom Brown for the goodness of his wine:—

"Thee *Owen*, since the God of wine has made  
 Thee steward of the gay carousing trade,  
 Whose art decaying nature still supplies,  
 Warms the faint pulse, and sparkles in our eyes.  
 Be bountiful like him, bring t'other *flask*,  
 Were the stairs wider we would have the *cask*.  
 This pow'r we from the God of wine derive,  
 Draw such as this, and I'll pronounce thou'lt live."

Speaking of Queen Anne's proclamation against vice and debauchery, in 1703, the paper called the

Observer says:—"The vintners and their wives were more particularly affected by it, some of the latter of which had the profit of the Sunday's claret to buy them pins, and to enable them every now and then to take a turn with the wine merchant's eldest prentice to Cupid's garden on board the Polly."\*

The coffee-houses about the time of the restoration first began to supersede the old English tavern, and though it subsisted as we have shewn long after that period, and is even now not extinct, it is under completely different modifications. Of these coffee-houses, as also chocolate-houses, (which latter began to spring up about the reign of Anne,) the most celebrated at the west end of the town were,—the Cocoa Tree, and White's, St. James's; the Smyrna, and the British Coffee House; which were all so near that in less than an hour you might see company in them all. They were formerly carried to these places in chairs and sedans, and then at this time had their different parties. A whig would no more go to the Cocoa Tree or Ozindas, than a tory would be seen at the coffee house of St. James's. The Scots generally frequented the British, and a mixture of all sorts unto the Smyrna. There were other little coffee-houses much frequented in this neighbourhood; Youngman's for officers, Oldman's for stock-jobbers, paymasters, and courtiers, and Littleman's for sharpers.

After the play, the best company generally went to Tom's and Will's coffee-house, near adjoining, where there was playing at picquet, and the best

\* Caper's Gardens on board the Folly, the spot where Waterloo Road Church now stands.



of conversation till midnight. Here you would see blue and green ribbons and stars sitting familiarly with private gents, and talking with the same freedom as if they had left their quality and degrees of distance at home. The most celebrated city coffee-houses were Tom's, Garraway's, Robin's, and Jonathan's; Button's is well known as the resort of Addison, Pope, &c. great wits of Anne and George the first's days.

To the above we may add as a cause of the decline of taverns, the general introduction of malt liquor as a common beverage, the high duties put upon wines, and above all the immoderate use of ardent spirits. Gin, about the beginning of the reign of George II. may be said to have almost inundated the metropolis, from the cheap rate at which it was sold, and occasioned Hogarth to attempt to counteract its pernicious effects, in his admirable prints of GIN STREET and BEER STREET. In the present day we still find several respectable houses bear the name of taverns, but the nature of their trade is totally altered from what it was antiently, and is either merged in the more modern business of the coffee-house keeper or that of the licenced victualler.

We return to the Mourning Bush.—

No mention occurs of this tavern in any of the publications we have met with, from the period when the anecdote is told of its loyal owner on the beheading of Charles I., till the year 1719, when we find its name changed to the FOUNTAIN. Whether this was caused by any political feeling against the then exiled House of Stuart, or was merely the capricious whim of the proprietor, we cannot learn, possibly it

might have relation to a curious spring on this spot thus mentioned by Stowe:—

“ Also on the east side” (i. e. of the gate) “ is the addition of one great building of timber, with one large floor, paved with stone or tile, and a well therein, curb’d with stone, of a great depth, and rising into the said room *two stories high from the ground*; which well is the only peculiar note belonging to this gate; *the like perhaps not be found in the city.*”

Under this denomination of the Fountain, it is mentioned in Tom Browne’s works, satirically, with four or five topping taverns of the day, whose landlords are charged with fully understanding the art of “ doctoring” as it is called, their wines, but whose trade nevertheless was so great that they stood fair for the alderman’s gown. The mention is contained in an article purporting to be a letter from an old vintner in the city to a one newly set up at Covent Garden, and is in the way of advice.—The trade of a vintner, the writer assures his friend, “ is a perfect mystery”—(for that is the term, he observes, which the law bestows upon it.)—He adds,—“ Now as all in the world are wholly supported by hard and unintelligible terms, you must take care to christen your wines by some hard names, the further fetched so much the better, and this policy will serve to recommend the most execrable scum in your cellar. I could name several of our brethren to you, who now stand fair to sit in the seat of justice, and sleep in their golden chain at churches, that had been forced to knock off long ago, if it had not been for this artifice. It saved the Sun from being eclipsed, the Crown from

being abdicated, the Rose from decaying, and the FOUNTAIN from being drawn dry, as well as both the Devil's from being confined to utter darkness.\*

Twenty years later, viz. in Ilive's large plan of Aldersgate Ward, 1739-40, we find the Fountain changed to the original name of this house, "The Bush Tavern." The Fire of London had evidently curtailed at this time its antient extent, (judging from the way it is represented in Aggas's view, as well as from the cellarage,) and instead of reaching from Aldersgate to St. Anne's Lane, it has, according to the scale, only about fifty feet frontage, and is divided from the corner house or houses by a passage, which leads to the top of the antient alley

\* The Devil Tavern stood on the site of Child's Place, next Temple Bar, and is immortalized in Ben Jonson's *Leges Conviviales*, which he wrote for the regulation of a club of wits, held here, in a room he dedicated to Apollo, and over the chimney-piece of which they were preserved. The sign was St. Dunstan tweaking the devil by the nose with a hot pair of tongs. In Jonson's days this tavern was kept by Simon Wadloe, whom in a copy of verses over the door of the Apollo he dignified with the title of *king of skinkers* (tapsters or drawers).

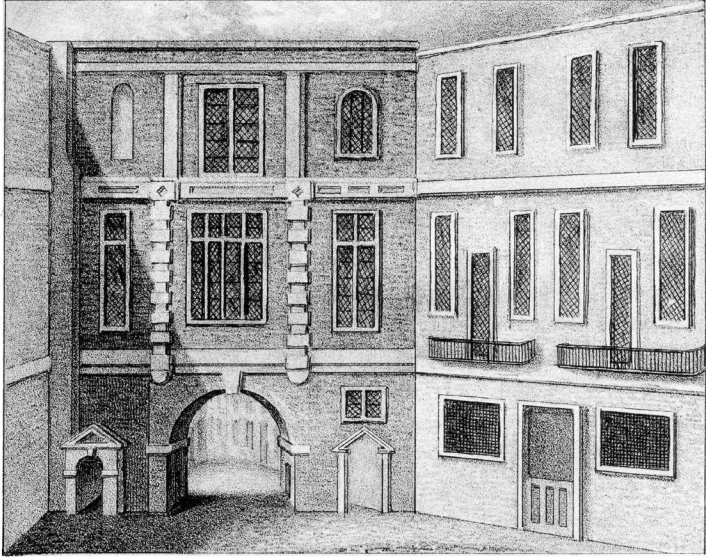
"Hang up all the poor hop drinkers,  
Cries old Sym. the *king of skinkers*."

It is said in one of Ben's trips to the Devil tavern, he observed a country lad gaping at a grocer's shop just by, and was told by him, that he "was admiring that nice piece of poetry over the shop." "How can you make that rhyme?" said the bard. "Why thus," replies the lad, whose name was Ralph:

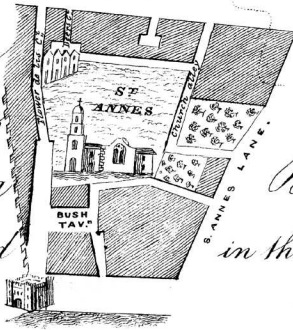
"Coffee and tea  
To be s-o-l d."

This so pleased Jonson, that Ralph was taken into his service immediately, and continued with him till his death. Query.—was coffee or tea then in use in England?—we think not. The anecdote, however, may apply to some later name.

THE SOUTH SIDE OF ALDERSGATE.



The inside  
Aldersgate  
Old Mourning  
as they appeared



View of  
with the  
Bush Tavern  
in the year 1739.

or entry, at present forming the back way to the Mourning Bush from St. Anne's Lane.

The exterior of the tavern is at the same time shewn in a small marginal print of the south side of Aldersgate. It has the precise character of the larger houses erected after the Fire of London, being constructed of brick, with heavy stone window frames and dressings. There are balconies to the two principal windows of the first story; and the house from immediately adjoining the gate, has in some measure, the effect of an attached ornamental building to it. The view and plan are shewn in the accompanying plate.

The last notice of this house as a place of entertainment, occurs in Maitland's History of London, (p. 767, ed. 1772,) in the account of the boundaries of Aldersgate Ward, where it is described as the Fountain Tavern, commonly called the Mourning Bush:—

“THE FOUNTAIN, commonly called the MOURNING BUSH, which has a back door into St. Anne's Lane, is seated near unto Aldersgate.”

The modern fitting up of the Mourning Bush deserves to be noticed for the credit it reflects on the talents of Mr. Cottingham, the architect, as well as on the spirit of Mr. Williams, the proprietor; and we consider it only a tribute due to both, for the politeness with which they have assisted our researches on this spot, to conclude with this mention of them:—

In the basement of the house, are the original wine vaults of the old Bush Tavern, the whole of which are judiciously retained, many of the walls being six

feet thick, and bonded throughout with *Roman brick*. The ground floor embraces a spacious bar, its ceiling beautifully painted in imitation of one discovered at Herculaneum, and dining and coffee rooms for the accommodation of the numerous working classes whose daily avocations call them into the immediate vicinity of the New Post Office. The one-pair floor is entirely occupied with spacious coffee and dining rooms, capable of accommodating one hundred and fifty persons. In the great coffee room is an elegant range of book-cases containing a selection of the best geographical works, books of travels, &c. besides all the reviews and periodicals of the day, accompanied by a splendid set of Smith's large roller maps of all parts of the globe. In the two-pair are elegant dining rooms for small parties, and lodging rooms for single gentlemen.

One of the above new rooms, forty-five feet long, and proportionably broad, which is called "THE SHAKESPEARE DINING ROOM, is particularly to be admired; it is fitted up in the most elegant manner;—on the south end is a bust of the immortal bard, modelled from the original on his monument at Stratford-upon-Avon: it is supported on antique trusses of winged Victories, moulded from the celebrated examples at the British Museum, and beneath is an elegant time-piece inlaid with scroll-work in brass; a superb chimney glass of large dimensions, finely reflects these objects at the reverse end of the room. It may be mentioned as rather a singular coincidence, that the old sign of this house, the MOURNING BUSH, placed to commemorate the death

of King Charles the First, was revived, or in other words the house was opened again as a tavern under its present *re-licencing*, on the very day of the death of King George the Fourth—being a distance of one hundred and eighty-two years between the two melancholy events. We wish for the landlord's sake, the *new establishment* may commence as auspiciously as *the new reign*.

THE END.