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TOWER OF LONDON



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SOUVENIR ALBUM of the TOWER OF LONDON

With Historical and Descriptive Notes by the VISCOUNT DILLON, P.S.A., late Curator of Tower Armouries.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TOWER

THE Tower of London has been, within its present limits, in past times a palace, a prison, a mint, a fortress, and a store. As a palace it has ceased since 1660 to afford even temporary lodging to the Sovereign; as a prison it has ceased to be used since 1820, when the Cato Street conspirators were confined in St. Thomas's and other towers previous to their execution. In 1810, on the completion of the present Mint in the vicinity, the Tower ceased to be the chief place whence the coinage issued. Its characteristics as a fortress and a store still remain, as seen in the garrison and the magazine of arms always kept there. The White Tower seems at no time to have been suited for a palace, the royal apartments having been situate between it and the river. As a prison the White Tower has at times held famous persons, such as the Poet Duke of Orleans, a captive of Agincourt; but as a rule prisoners were bestowed in the smaller towers and the lodgings on Tower Green. The Tower as a fortress began its existence in 1078, when the Conqueror, in order to have a control over the City, removed part of the old city wall, and commenced the fortress. The original limits were

probably those we see at present as defined by the Ditch or Moat. Inside this was the Outer Ward, which, with six towers on the river or southern face, protected the fortress from attack on that side, whilst two large bastions and

a salient gave the necessary protection to the land side. Within this line of defence is yet another, known as the Inner Ward, fortified by thirteen towers, and only entered at the Bloody Tower gate house opposite to the Traitors' Gate, beneath St. Thomas's Tower of the Outer Ward. Still within the Inner Ward, and forming the kernel of the whole, is the White Tower or Keep, commanding by its position the southern defences. This keep, surmounted by four towers at the corners, is a massive pile built on the slope of the river bank. The level of the Parade Ground on the north side is $37\frac{1}{2}$ feet above the datum, while the lowest floor in the building is some 11 feet above the wharf. It obtained its name of the White Tower as far back as the days of Edward III, and, but for the alteration by Sir Christopher Wren of all the windows except those on the highest floor towards the river, the Tower appears now as it has to very many generations.



GATEWAY OF THE BLOODY TOWER.

Above is seen the Portcullis, the only one now in working order. It is lowered by machinery in the room above. The entrance to the Inner Ward is through the Bloody Tower Gate House.



GENERAL VIEW OF WEST END OF THE PARADE.

On the right is St. Peter ad Vincula. In the centre is the site of the scaffold, marked by posts and chains. On the left is the Beauchamp Tower.

The Towers, The Warders, and The Regalia

THE Tower, which, with its encircling moat, covers some twelve acres of ground, consists of a series of concentric works of different ages. Of these the White Tower, or Keep, with its lofty battlements, rising 90 feet from the base, is the most ancient. It consists of four stages, and the walls, 12 to 15 feet thick at the base, enclose a space of about 91 feet by 73. The whole is traversed from base to top by a massive wall running North and South dividing each floor in two parts. The Eastern portion is again divided by a wall running East and West into two smaller portions. The Southern one of these forms the sub-crypt, the crypt and the Chapel of St. John, while the larger, or Western portion, consists of the West basement, the present small-arm store, the Banqueting Hall, and above that the Council Chamber. Next to the White Tower in point of age is the Wakefield Tower to the South. St. Thomas's Tower belongs to the reign of Henry III, and to that period may be assigned the Develin, the Cradle, and the Well Towers on the Southern front, also the Martin or Brick Tower on the North-east corner. To Edward III's reign may be assigned the Bloody Tower, the Beauchamp and the Bowyer Towers, while to Richard II's belong the Byward and Middle Towers. The latest of all is the North Bastion. Many of the Towers have at various times changed their names. The Chapel of St. Peter ad Vincula is first mentioned in 1210.

Whilst the Tower has in its history changed hands, being at times seized by the Sovereign's enemies, it was, however, until the Restoration, occupied by the King for a few days previous to the Coronation, and from thence the Sovereign proceeded by land

or by water to Westminster. In 1460 it was besieged, and stone cannon shot found in the ditch probably belong to that occasion. Henry VI and Edward V found their deaths within the fortress, and many of the most famous names of English history are intimately connected with the Tower. The Warders, now selected from the most deserving Non-commissioned Officers of the Army, are said to derive their picturesque uniform from the grateful recollections of the Protector Somerset, at one time a prisoner; but the present dress, like that of the Yeomen of the Guard which it resembles, save in there being no shoulder belt, does not date further back than the days of Charles II. The State Axe, which preceded the prisoner with averted edge on the way to trial, and with the edge turned toward the prisoner after condemnation, is, with the Tower Mace, in the custody of the Lieutenant of the Tower.

The Regalia or Crown Jewels include the King's Crown, originally made for Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, and bearing in front the historic ruby given to the Black Prince in 1367, and worn by Henry V at Agincourt, also the lesser of the Stars of Africa (once known as the Cullinan Diamond), besides some 3,000 precious stones. There are also the Crowns of Mary, Queen of James II, and Mary, Queen of William III, as well as that of Charles II.

The Orb, or Mound of Gold, various Sceptres and Swords, and the Eagle and Spoon for anointing the Sovereign, a great Salt Cellar in the form of Exeter Castle, and the Font for the Royal Baptisms, with other important objects, may be noticed in the case. But the Anointing Spoon is the sole relic of the ancient Regalia.



VIEW ALONG THE OUTER WARD.

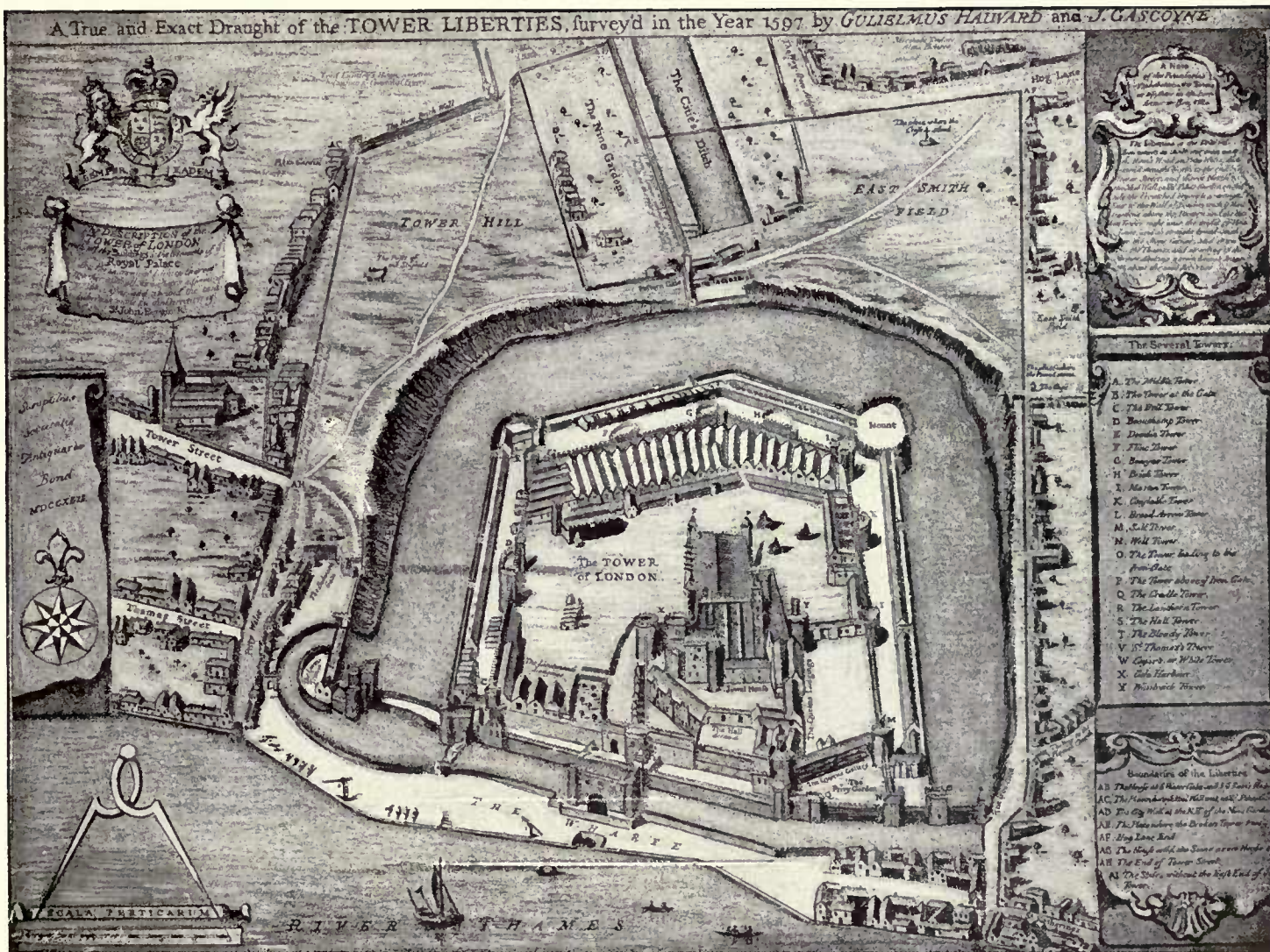
On the left is the King's House, and further on the Bloody Tower and Gateway. Beyond is the Wakefield Tower connected by a bridge with St. Thomas's Tower and Traitors' Gate. The Wakefield Tower, formerly called the Hall Tower, was from A.D. 1360 for very many years used as a depository for the Records of the Realm. The Tower dates from the days of King Stephen. It is now the place where the Regalia are kept.



THE BYWARD TOWER AND THE OUTER WARD.

On the right is seen the flank of St. Thomas' Tower, and on the left the Beauchamp tower of the Inner Ward. The gardens below were formerly part of the Moat, which

was drained in 1843, by order of the Duke of Wellington, when Constable. The bridge formerly had a drawbridge where the arch now is.



Bird's-eye view of the Tower and Liberties as they appeared in 1597. The site of the Scaffold on Tower Hill (now inside the garden of Trinity House) is marked, and some of the buildings forming the Royal Palace, as it existed at that date, are shown

to the South of the White Tower. The Lions' Menagerie is also shown near the present entrance. The animals were removed in 1834 to the Zoological Gardens, and the building were levelled in 1853.



MAY DAY PARADE IN THE TOWER.

WHAT TO SEE IN THE TOWER

THE visitor, having taken his ticket at the office, which is on the site of the old menagerie, will pass by the Middle Tower across the moat, and, entering the gateway of the Byward Tower, find himself in the Outer Ward. Passing along by the King's House on his left, he will arrive at the Bloody Tower Gateway with its portcullis, the Wakefield Tower beyond, and on his right hand St. Thomas's Tower and Traitors' Gate, where prisoners were formerly landed from the boat, which passed through an opening in the wharf from the river. The visitor will then pass on beneath a bridge connecting St. Thomas's Tower and the Wakefield until he reaches an opening in the wall on his left just before the Ordnance Office in the newly re-erected Lantern Tower. Ascending the slope towards the White Tower, and mounting a few steps, he will enter the White Tower. Here at the foot of the staircase a tablet marks the finding of bones, supposed to be those of

Edward V and his brother. Ascending to the first floor, the visitor will then enter and pass across the west end of St. John's Chapel, which he will leave at the north-west corner, finding himself in the

Oriental Armoury. Traversing this, he will pass into the later armoury, with its personal relics of Wolfe and Wellington, the block, and many other objects of interest. He will then ascend the circular stairs at the south-west corner and arrive at the Horse Armoury on the top floor, and situated in the Council Chamber, with its curious passage or corridor traversing the thickness of the walls. From this room he will pass to the Eastern Horse Armoury and leaving it at the north-east corner will go along the corridor to the north-west stairs, where he will descend and come out on the parade ground on the north side of the



THE MIDDLE TOWER.

This Tower, the only one outside the ditch, is an outwork of the Byward Tower, and protects the bridge across the moat. There were two portcullis, but they have now disappeared.

Tower, opposite to the Barracks, which occupy the site of the Great Store erected by James II and burnt in 1841. He will then proceed to the

Beauchamp Tower, passing on his right hand the site of the scaffold on Tower Green and St. Peter ad Vincula, where rest the remains of most of those who perished here or on Tower Hill. In the Beauchamp Tower he will see many memorials of the prisoners who spent many years in the Tower, some never to leave it alive. Returning from the Beauchamp

Tower with the King's House on his right hand, he will then descend the steps by the new Guard House and will enter the Wakefield Tower, where are kept the Regalia.

The places mentioned here are the only parts of the Tower usually shown to the public.



TRAITORS' GATE.

This gate beneath St. Thomas's Tower derives its name from the fact that prisoners were usually landed here from the boats conveying them to the Tower. They could then be passed quickly into the Inner Ward and consigned to their prisons.



THE CROWN JEWELS.

The Crown Jewels have for some years been kept in the Wakefield Tower, but were, at the time of Colonel Blood's attempt on them in the Martin Tower. Here are shown the Crown, Swords, etc., used at Coronations and other Royal Functions. At the summit is the Imperial State Crown worn by Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, His late Majesty King Edward VII, and His late Majesty King George V, and containing amongst other valuable

stones the lesser of the Stars of Africa (once known as the Cullinan Diamond) and the Rubi given to the Black Prince in 1367. Standing upright is the Royal Sceptre, containing the larger of the Stars of Africa. This is said to be the largest diamond in the world and beyond price—516½ carats.



"CRANMER AT TRAITORS' GATE."

From the Picture by F. GOODALL, R.A.

Thomas Cranmer

*Autograph of
Archbishop Cranmer*

Archbishop Cranmer, who had at first opposed the idea of the succession to the Crown Lady Jane Grey, afterwards consented to it, and, accordingly, on the Accession of Mary, with Lady Jane Grey and her husband, were, September 14th, 1553, sent to the Tower. November the Archbishop was taken to Guildhall, where he was tried for high treason,

and condemned to death. He was, 13th March, 1554, sent to Oxford, where, after recanting, he however, reasserted his opinions and perished with great fortitude at the stake, March 21st, 1556. "The sad pathos of the Primate's humiliation and repentance struck chords of sympathy and pity in the hearts of all."



“EXECUTION OF
LADY JANE GREY.”

*From the Picture
by PAUL DE LA ROCHE.
By Permission of
His Grace the
Duke of Sutherland.*

*Jane
the Queen*

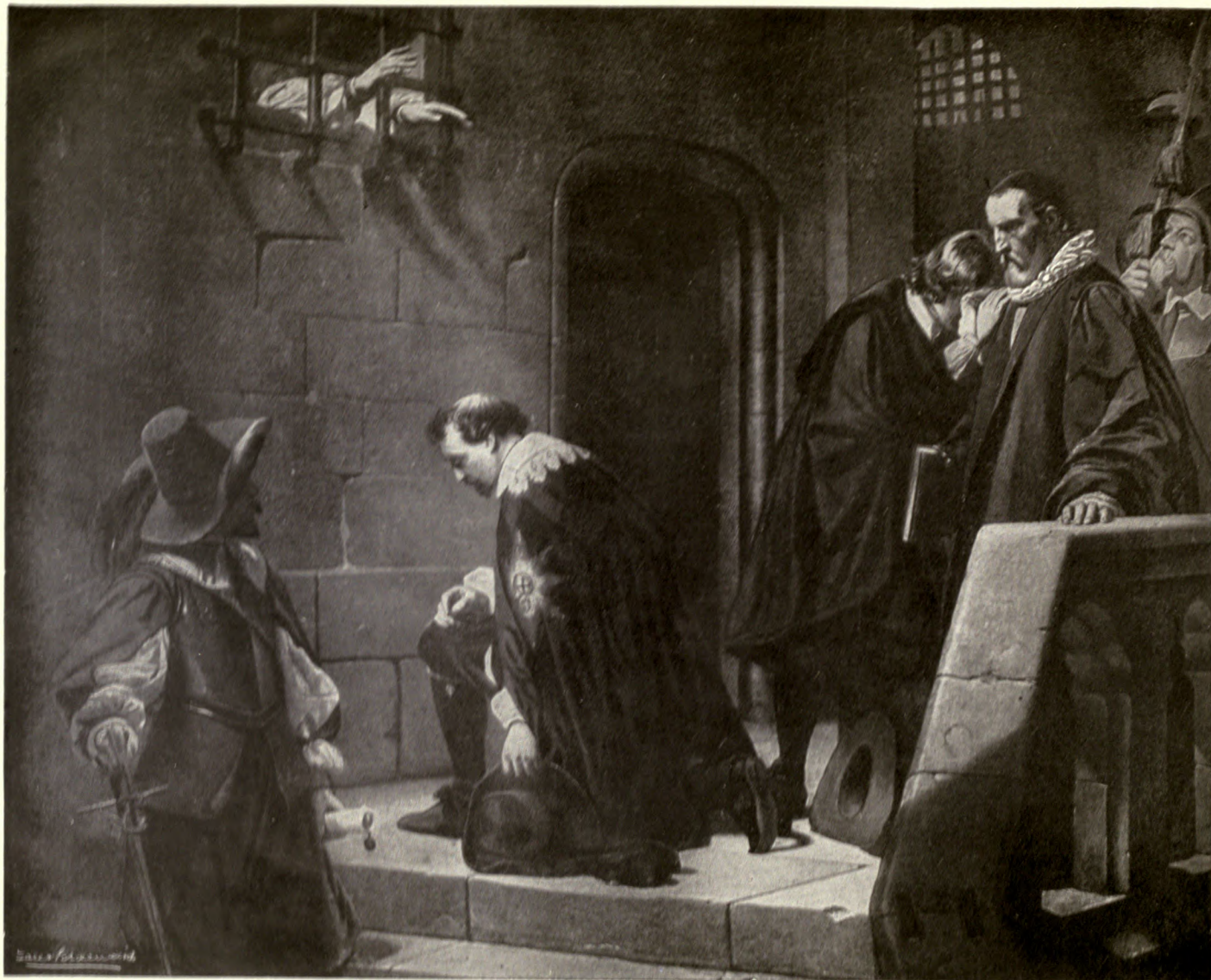
Autograph of Lady Jane Grey.

Lady Jane Grey entered the Tower as Queen on the 9th July, 1553, and nine days later she was a prisoner in the Lieutenant's (now the King's) House. Later on she was moved to another house on the Tower Green, from which, on the 12th February of the next year, she

saw the headless body of her husband brought back from Tower Hill but a few minutes before she laid her own head on the block on Tower Green. "If her fault deserved punishment, her youth at least was worthy of excuse."

"THE EARL OF STRAFFORD ON HIS WAY TO EXECUTION."

*From the Picture
by PAUL DE LA ROCHE.
By kind permission
of Lord Cheylesmore.*

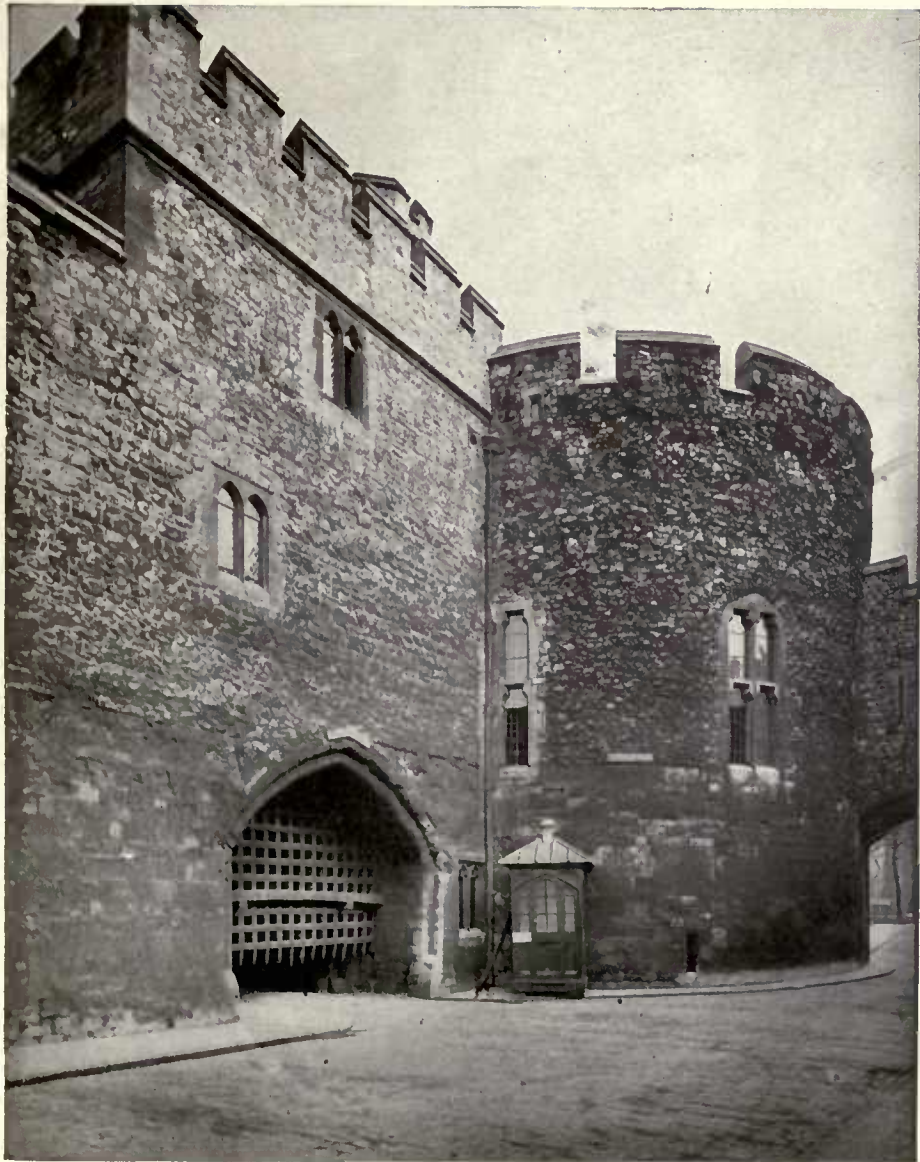


Wentworth

Autograph of Sir Thomas Wentworth.

Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, was committed to the Tower on the charge of Treason. On May 12th, 1641, he passed out to die on Tower Hill, and as he went he received

the blessing of the aged Archbishop Laud, then confined in the Bloody Tower, who four years later, on 10th January, 1645, perished on the same spot as Strafford.



BLOODY TOWER.

The Bloody Tower, with its Portcullis lowered, dates from Edward III. The Portcullis and Gates are extremely massive, and carry with them every appearance of high antiquity. The machinery for working the Portcullis is in the room above.



BYWARD TOWER.

The Byward Tower, with its Portcullis lowered, dates from Henry III. It forms the principal entrance to the exterior line of fortifications. An octagonal apartment on each side of the gateway remains in great perfection, and one of them is used as a Lodge for the Warders.



SCAFFOLD SITE.

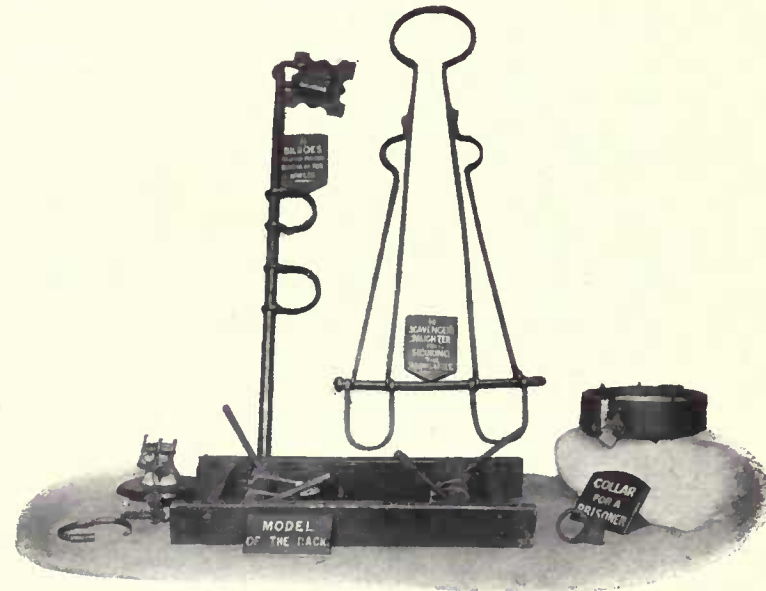
Site of the Scaffold on which many famous personages were beheaded, including Queen Anne Boleyn, Queen Katherine Howard, and Lady Jane Grey. In the background is St. Peter ad Vincula Royal Chapel, which, after Westminster Abbey, is the most famous of English burial-places.



EXECUTION BLOCK AND AXE.

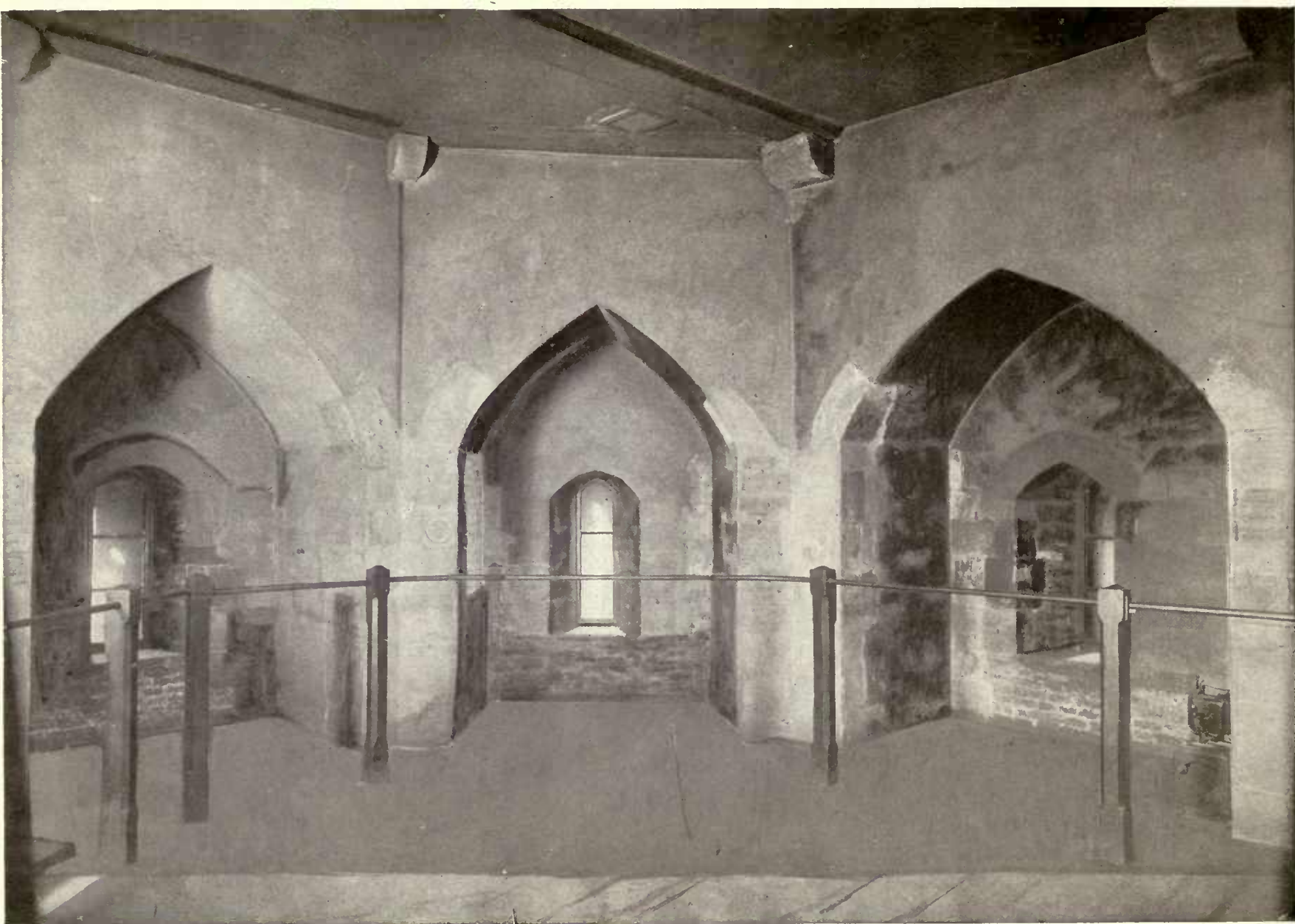
THE BLOCK AND AXE.

The Block is that on which Lord Lovat was executed on Tower Hill, 9th April, 1747, for his share in the rising of 1745. It was given to John Bayley, the historian of the Tower, by John Poynder, Esq., March, 1825. The axe has been in the Tower since 1687.



INSTRUMENTS OF PUNISHMENT.

The instruments of punishment consist of bilboes, such as are used on board ship for holding the feet; the scavenger's daughter, for holding the neck, hands, and feet; a collar, with blunt spikes inside for the neck of a prisoner (this was here in 1547), and a conjectural model of the rack, made from one of the German woodcuts in "Foxe's Book of Martyrs." On the left are the thumbscrews used, like the rack, not for punishments, but for extorting confessions.



INTERIOR OF FIRST FLOOR OF THE BEAUCHAMP TOWER.

In this room are collected many of the stones bearing inscriptions engraved by former prisoners, and record their imprisonment in the Tower for various offences.

The room was in more modern times used as a mess-room by the officers of the garrison, but, excepting by the casual visitor, is now quite unoccupied.

THE Armoury in the Tower dates back to 1660. Originally commenced by Henry VIII., the collection of arms and armour was placed in the old Palace of Greenwich, where they were seen and mentioned by many distinguished travellers, notably by Hentzner in Elizabeth's reign. Early in the Civil War the arms and armour were brought to London and many pieces were lost and taken during that stormy period. At the Restoration all that could be collected of the old armoury were formed into a sort of museum, and this became one of the show places of London. In the early part of the XIX. century many

pieces were added to the collection, and the whole was at various times re-arranged by Planché, Meyrick and Hewitt. Historical research has of late years modified some of the opinions of earlier times, and many of the older fictions have had to give way to facts which are no whit less interesting.



STAIRCASE IN BLOODY TOWER
LEADING TO VAULT IN THE
WAKEFIELD TOWER.



BASEMENT OF THE WAKEFIELD TOWER.

The stone vaulting executed in 1867 is a copy of the original. In this basement were confined some of the prisoners taken at the Battle of Wakefield in 1460, and nearly 300 years later many of the Scotch prisoners after the rising of 1745 were also kept here.



STAFF OF THE CON-
STABLE OF THE TOWER
which belonged to the
Earl of Northampton
who fought at Edgehill
Hopton Heath, New-
bury, and Banbury.

SIR THOMAS MORE
IN PRISON
"THE TOWER."

From the picture by
J. R. HERBERT, R.A.



Sir Thomas More

Portrait of Sir Thomas More.

Sir Thomas More, at one time a personal friend and favourite of Henry VIII, was, on 1st July, 1534, committed to the Tower for denying the King's supremacy. While there his wife and his devoted daughter Margaret Roper were allowed to see him, but on 6th July, 1535, he was executed on Tower Hill, where, fourteen days before, Fisher, Bishop

of Rochester, had died for the same offence. More asked for and received five blows with the axe in memory of the five Holy wounds. His body rests with Fisher's in St. Peter ad Vincula, his head was buried with Margaret Roper. The picture represents him with his daughter in the Beauchamp Tower.



EAST END OF CHAPEL OF ST. PETER AD VINCULA.

On the extreme left is the tomb of Sir Richard Cholmondeley, Lieutenant of the Tower in the reign of Henry VII, and of his wife. On the north side of the chancel is the monument of Sir Richard Blount and of Sir Michael, his son, both Lieutenants of the Tower.

The Duke of Monmouth, beheaded 15th July, 1685, lies beneath the altar, and to the west of him lie Anne Boleyn, Katherine Howard, Lady Jane Grey, and many other famous persons.



INTERIOR OF ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL IN THE WHITE TOWER.

This beautiful example of Norman architecture of course belongs to the earliest date of the Tower, 1078, and, though now restored to its original appearance and use, it has been at various times since 1550 devoted to very different uses. For many years it was filled with records and other documents, and it was only in 1857 that it was saved from being

turned into a tailor's warehouse, owing mainly to the late Prince Consort's good offices. The chapel is $55\frac{1}{2}$ feet long by 31 feet. The Triforium, $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, is a continuation of the passage in the thickness of the wall encircling the Tower, and the windows were at one time enriched with stained glass.

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