
RELICS *and* MEMORIALS *of* LONDON CITY

made to provide entrances to that building from east and north ; and it is quite possible that it perpetuates one of the names which the tavern has borne. This church was the scene of the thanksgiving service attended by the Princess Elizabeth on her release from the Tower, where she had been confined on suspicion of complicity in Wyatt's rebellion. As the legend goes, she dined afterwards at the King's Head on pork and peas. This story leaves us marvelling at the good appetite retained by Elizabeth after her unpleasant experience. But, by her generosity at this service, we may measure somewhat of the thankfulness that filled that parsimonious lady on her release. At the conclusion of the service here, she gave such a handsome gratuity to the parish clerk that he straightway took all his neighbours home to dine with him on a leg of pork and peas ; even then his thankfulness was not exhausted, and he made it an annual feast until his death, after which some of the residents changed the date to November 17, and made it a parish feast in honour of Elizabeth's accession. This later feast was celebrated in the tavern mentioned, and the staple dishes were always legs of pork with peas. The popular story was doubtless conjured backwards out of this feast.

During the Great Fire the church was saved from destruction by the efforts of Samuel Pepys and the seamen whom he brought into the city ; and it is noted as one of the four churches in London where the " Declaration of Indulgence " by James II. was read. After that it became neglected, so that all but the tower fell down in 1764. In 1870 the site was purchased by the Clothworkers' Company, a part of the churchyard laid out as a garden, " to be unbuilt for ever," the tower repaired, and left standing.