
RELICS *and* MEMORIALS *of* LONDON CITY

This church contains the ashes of the man from whose diary we first obtain really vivid glimpses of the life of the people; that diary is certainly the most entertaining book in the world, and the personality of the writer has provided material for a whole library of learned works. "Our own" church, as it figures on his pages, was close by the old Navy Office, and is still to some considerable extent associated with the sea, though that Navy Office has long gone. It is the official church for Trinity House, on Tower Hill. Much "restored," its brick tower and weather-worn walls overlook a little graveyard, the gateway of which to Seething Lane has an extraordinary decoration of skulls in high relief. The church dates from the middle of the fifteenth century on an older foundation; the crown over the vane is in commemoration of the service attended by Princess Elizabeth on her release from the Tower. This crown must have been removed to St. Olave's from All Hallows Steyning. There are some fine sword-rests in the church, and the pulpit—attributed to Grinling Gibbons—was formerly in St. Benet's, Gracechurch Street. When that church was pulled down in 1876, this pulpit was bought by the Elder Brethren of Trinity House, and brought here. The registers date from 1563, and record the baptism of a daughter of Sir Philip Sidney in 1585, and of Robert Devereux, son of the Earl of Essex, in 1590. The parents of Joseph Chamberlain were married here on March 26, 1835. One of the Penn family (George), Samuel Pepys, his brother Tom, and his much-tried wife, are buried in the church. It is also associated with Horatio Nelson, who as a youth lived with his uncle, Captain Maurice Suckling, at the Navy Office.

Samuel Pepys is buried "in the vault by ye communion