

**AUTHORISED GUIDE  
TO THE TOWER OF  
LONDON**

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Authorised Guide to the Tower of London by W. J. Loftie

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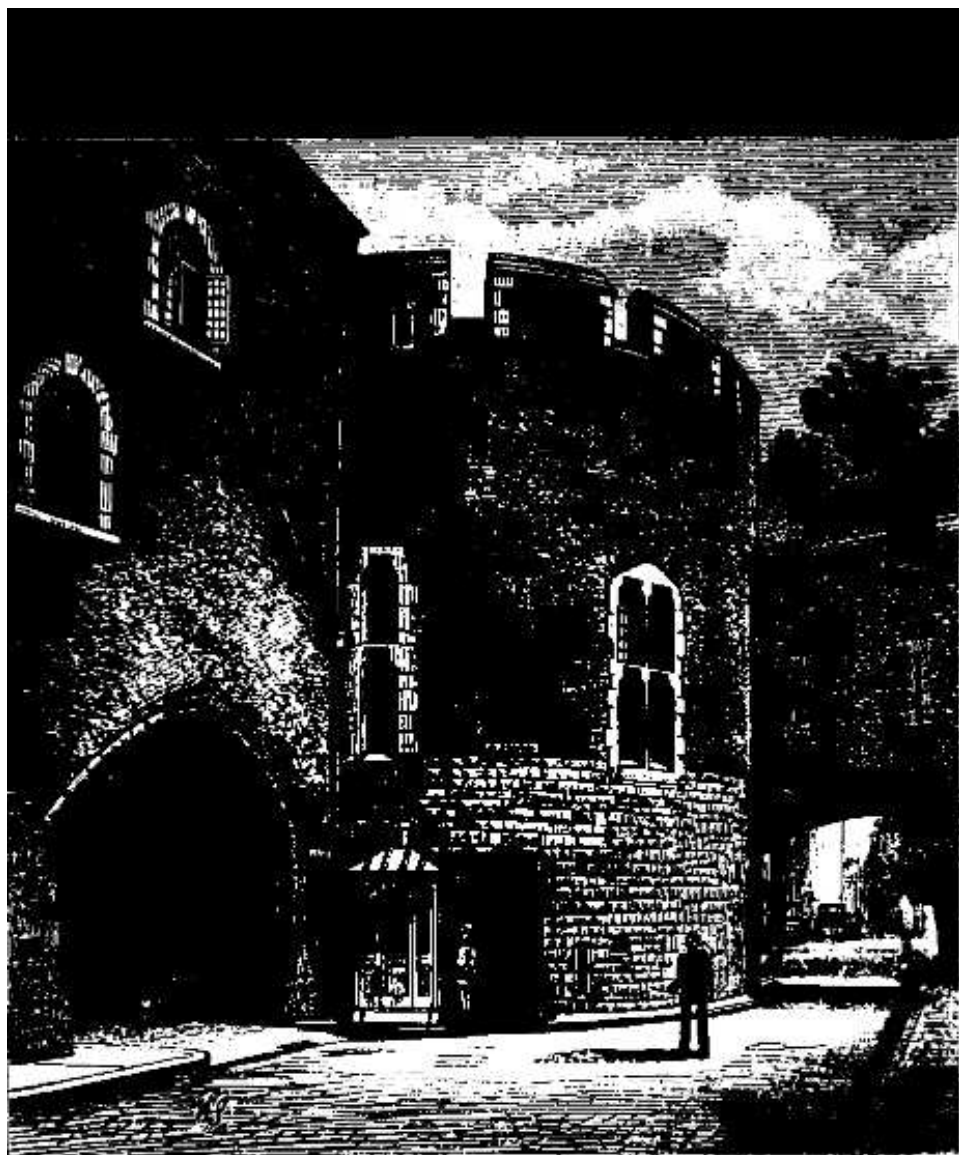
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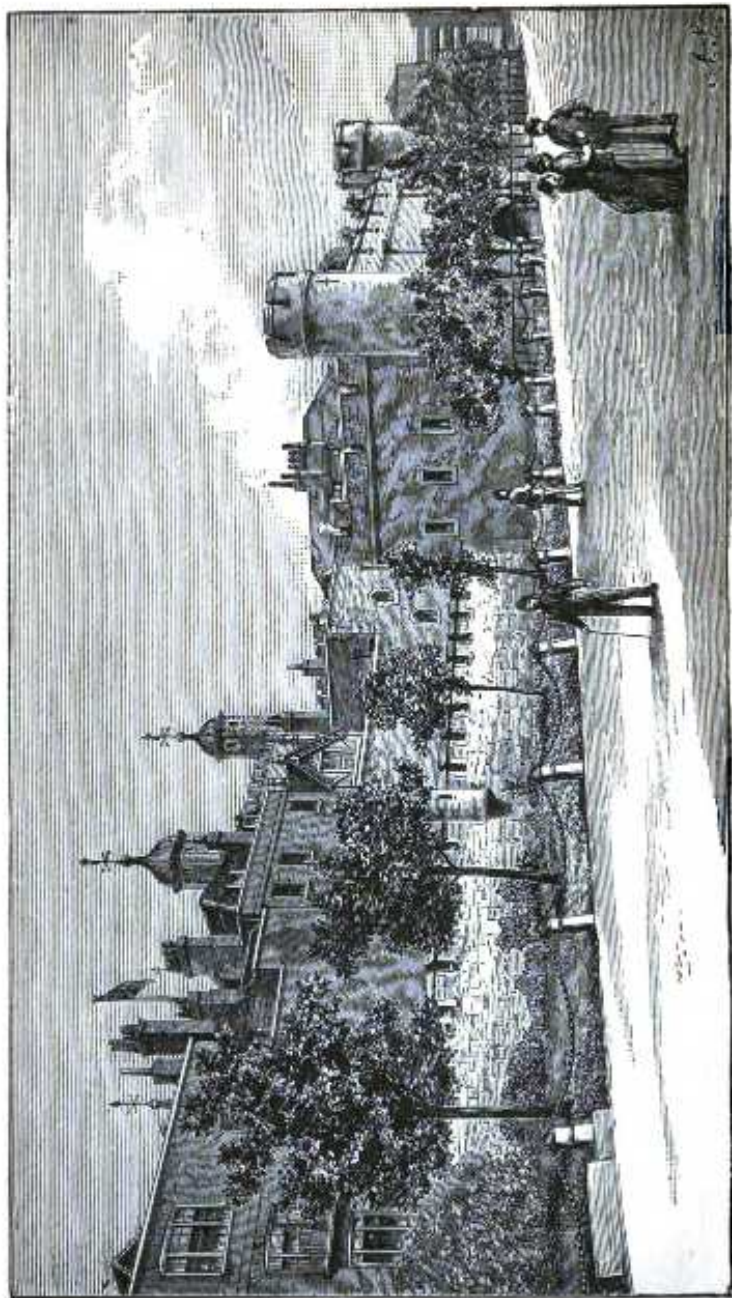
**AUTHORISED GUIDE  
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LONDON**





*authorised guide to the  
tower of london*

Frontispiece.



Lieutenant's Lodgings,  
or  
"Queen's House."

Bloody Tower,  
Constable's Garden.

St. Thomas's Tower  
and  
Traitors' Gate.

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AUTHORISED GUIDE  
TO THE  
TOWER OF LONDON.

(SECOND EDITION, REVISED).

BY

W. J. LOFTIE,

*B.A., F.S.A.; Author of "A History of London,"  
"Memorials of the Savoy," &c., &c.*

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND PLANS.



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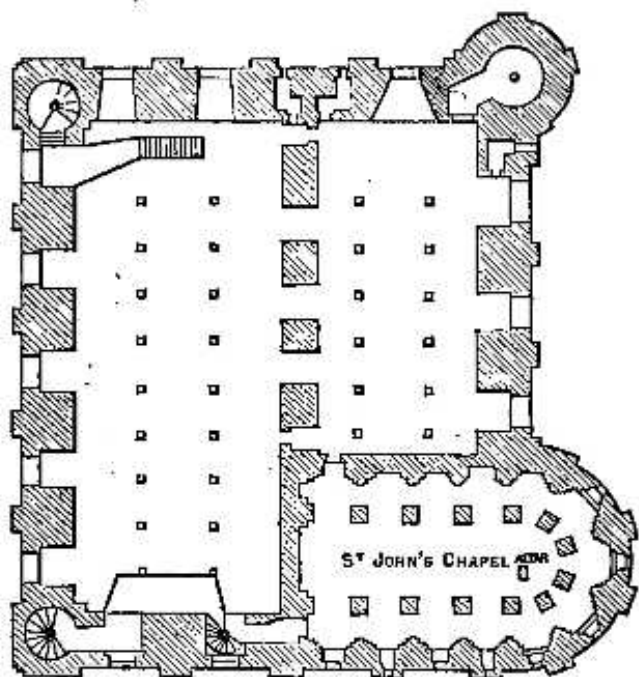
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WHITE TOWER.

Plan of Middle Floor.

At the Altar, Queen Mary was betrothed to Philip, King of Spain.

# THE TOWER OF LONDON.



## GENERAL SKETCH.

THE ground on which the Tower stands was selected by William the Conqueror very soon after he obtained possession of the kingdom. It stood partly within the ancient wall, which had been built first by the Romans about the year 360, just before their evacuation of Britain, and rebuilt by Alfred the Great in 886. Two bastions, chiefly of brick, were razed to the ground, and the firm foundation they afforded was used in part for the construction of a vast Norman Keep. The exact year when building was commenced is unknown, but the works were perhaps in progress as early as 1078, or twelve years after the Battle of Hastings, the previous Norman fortifications having probably consisted only of earthworks and wooden stockades, surrounding the Roman bastions.

The double purpose of the new building is apparent. It was intended both to protect the port of London and to overawe the citizens. The whole Tower Liberty, as it is at present, is very

much larger than the small portion required by the Conqueror for his new buildings (see below, *Architectural History*, p. 143), and covers about twenty-six acres, of which the actual buildings within the limits of the Outer Ward occupy about twelve, eighteen in all being comprised within the garden railings which surround the ditch, or moat, now dry. It is probable that the present dimensions were not attained until the end of the twelfth or beginning of the thirteenth century, as we find the citizens complaining of encroachments in the reign of Richard I, and later.

The present buildings are mainly of the Norman period and that of Henry III; but architecture of almost all the styles which have flourished in England may be found within the walls. A sketch of the architectural history of the Tower of London will be found on a subsequent page. For our present purpose, it will be sufficient to point out that though the Tower is no longer a place of great military strength it has in time past been a fortress, a palace, and a prison, and to view it rightly we must regard it in this threefold aspect.

As a FORTRESS, we find that it belongs to what archaeologists call the "concentric" class: that is, the Keep is as nearly as possible in the middle of the castle, and not at a corner on the outer or inner wall. The central Keep is the "White Tower." Surrounding it is the "Inner Ward," which is entered by a gateway known as the "Bloody Tower." The wall of this Inner Ward is guarded at intervals by thirteen towers, of different sizes and degrees of strength. Surrounding the wall is the