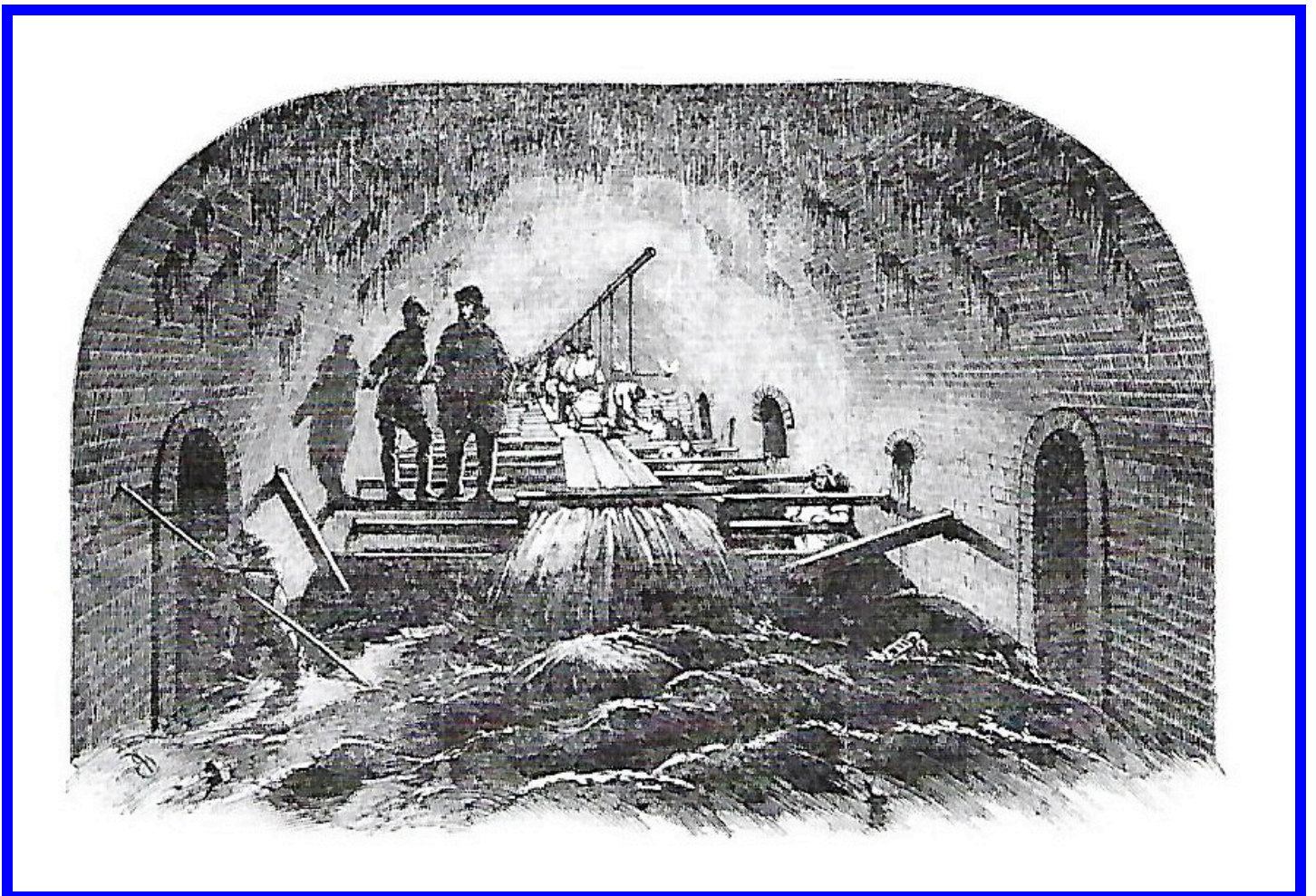


**PLUMBING & SANITATION  
FROM EARLIEST TIMES**

*London Sewers*

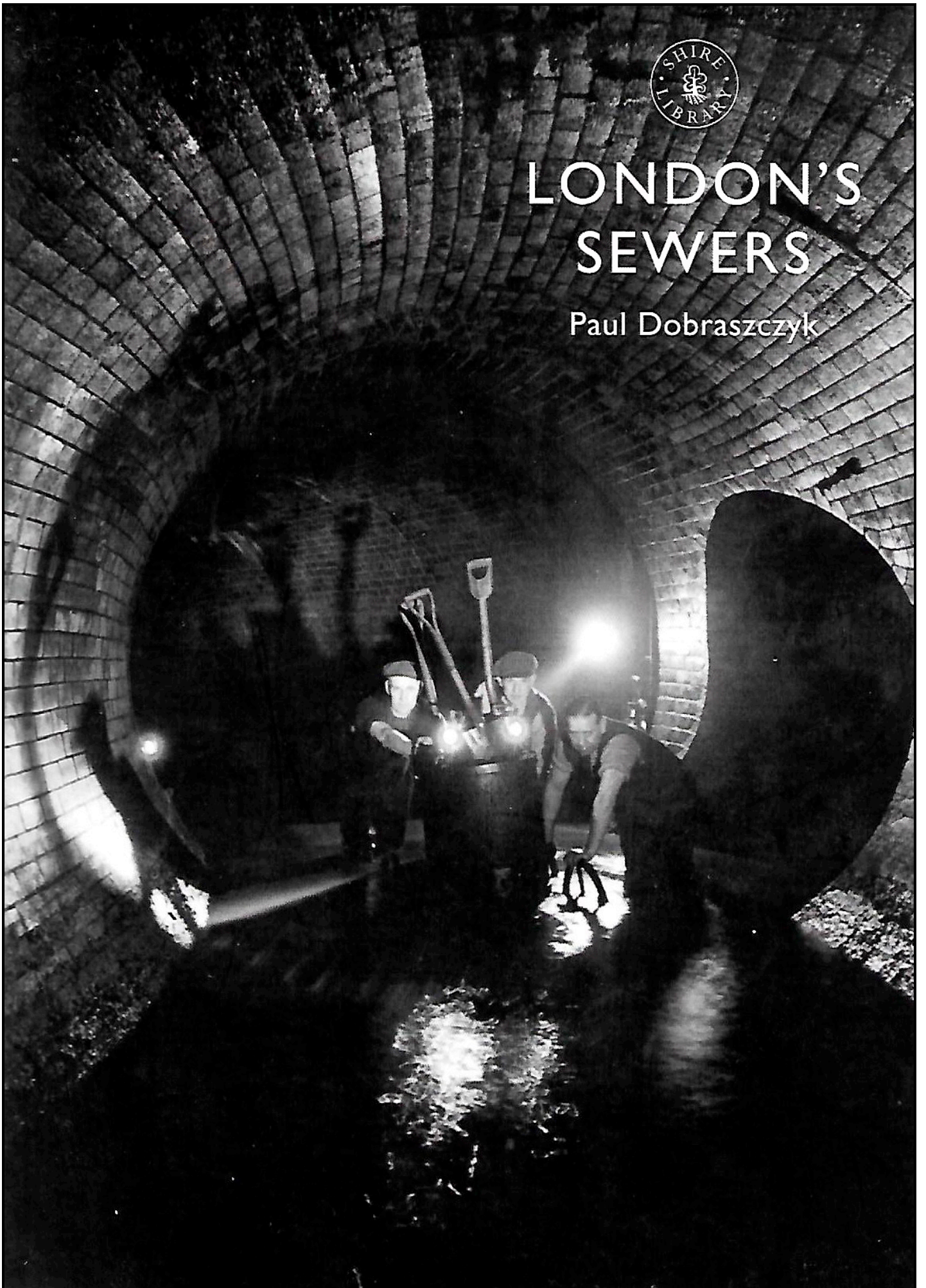


**From LONDON'S SEWER, Shire 2014**



# LONDON'S SEWERS

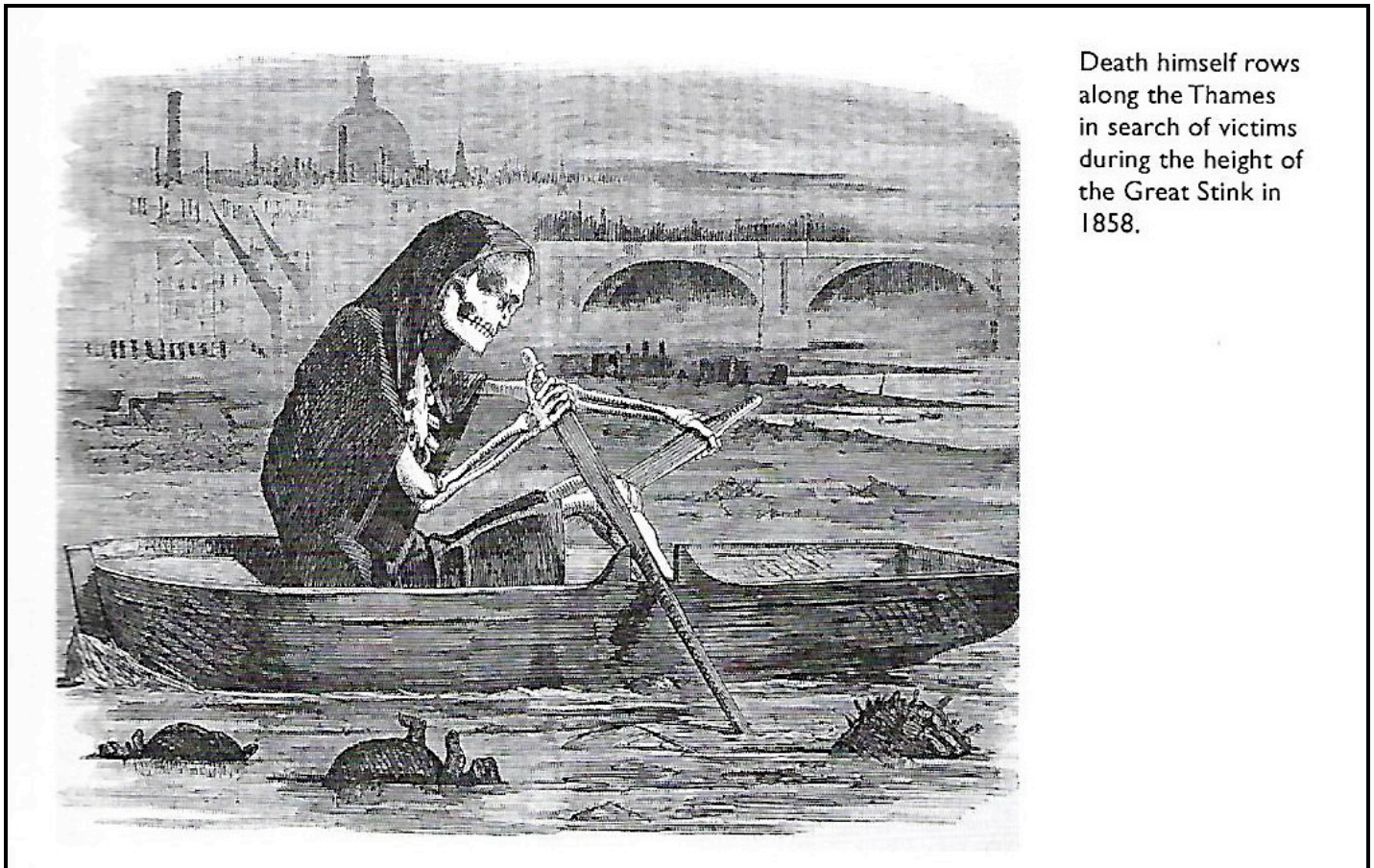
Paul Dobraszczuk



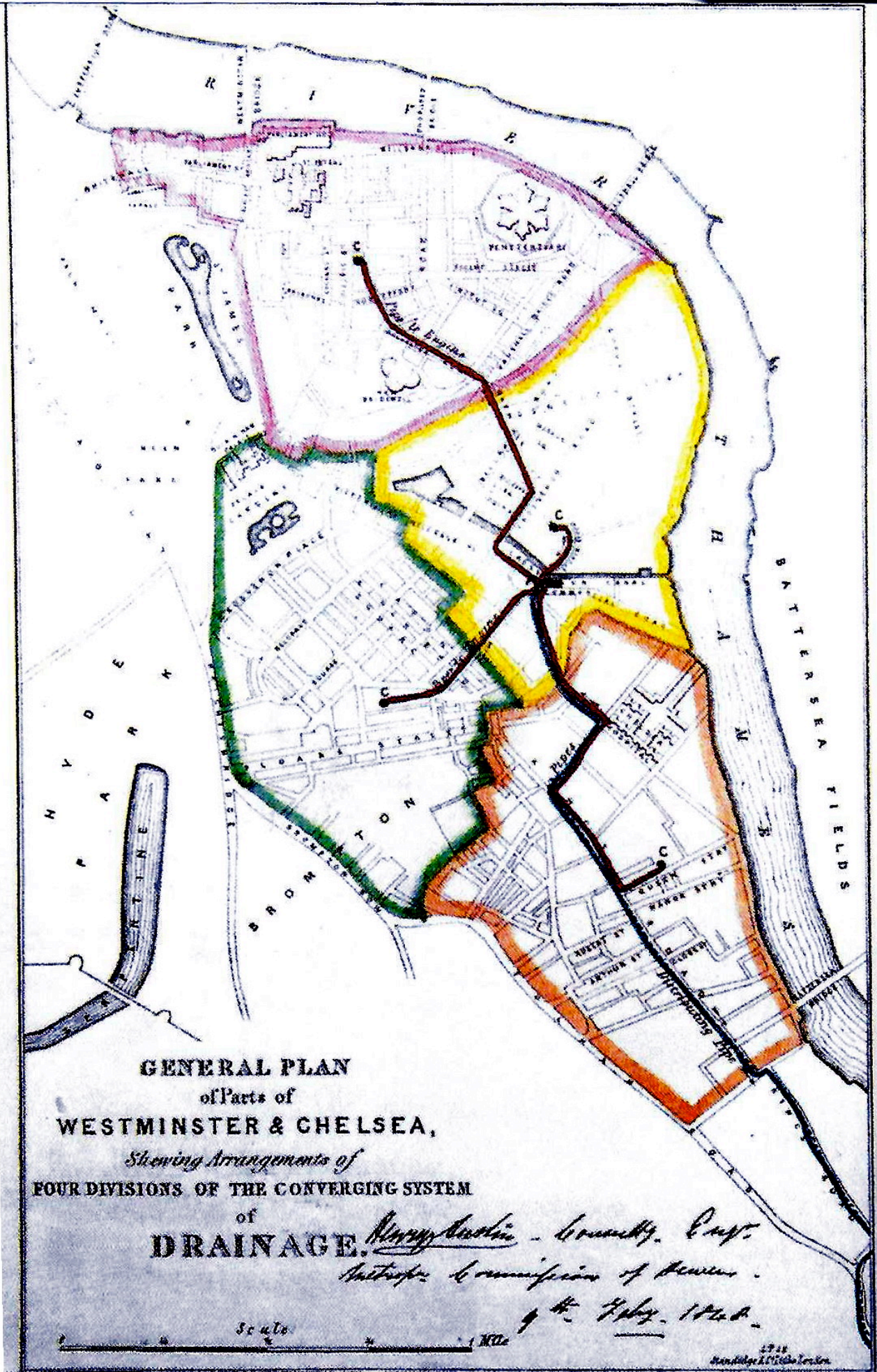


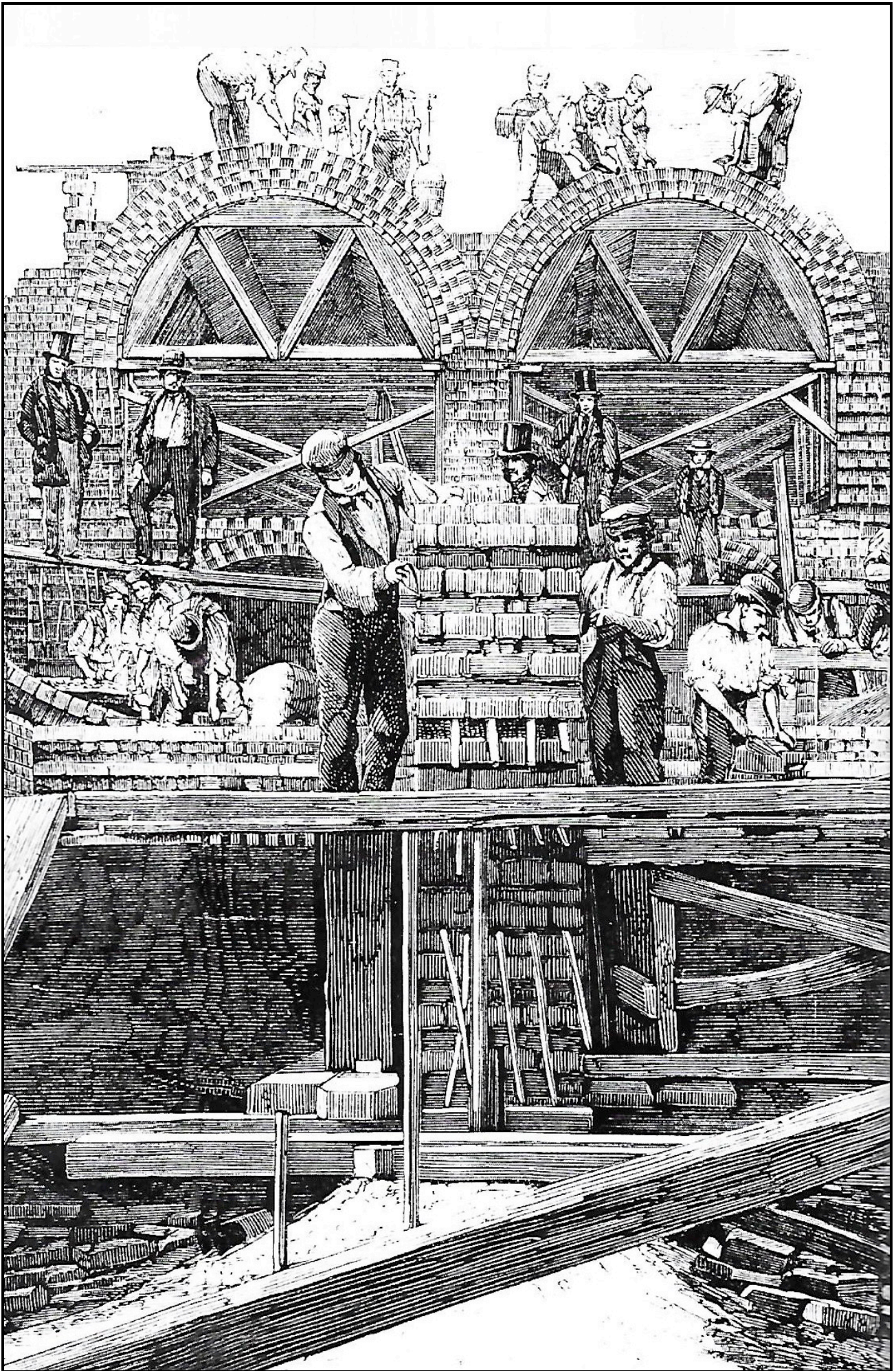
FARADAY GIVING HIS CARD TO FATHER THAMES;

And we hope the Dirty Fellow will consult the learned Professor.



Death himself rows along the Thames in search of victims during the height of the Great Stink in 1858.





Building the sewers in 1859i

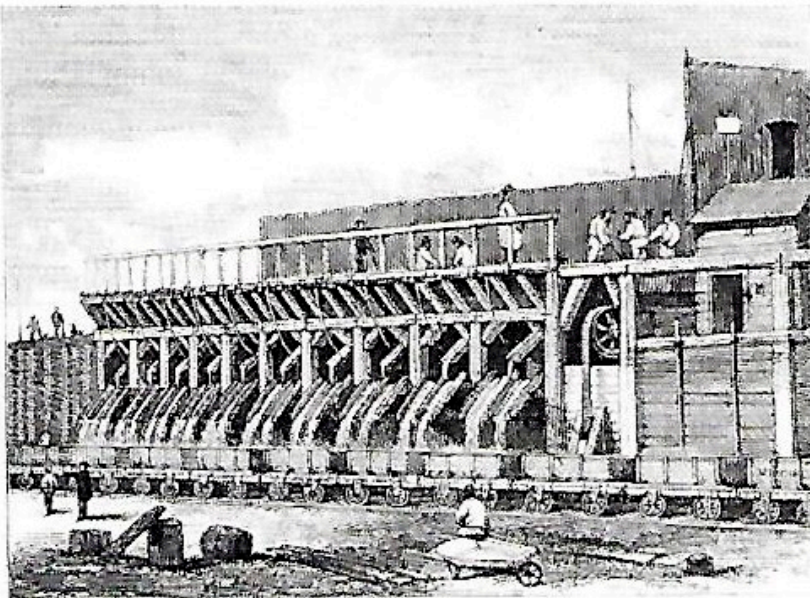


Building the Northern Outfall sewer, 1862

L O N D O N M A I N D R A I N A G E .

Forty years ago good salmon were taken in the upper reaches of the Thames, and good fish of various kinds caught between Vauxhall and London Bridges; indeed, a thriving community of fishermen resided there in those picturesque old streets about the Archbishop's Palace who prosecuted their calling in the immediate neighbourhood. The walks along the shores of the Thames were pleasant places in those days, where the Londoners watched on summer evenings to enjoy fresh air. The river was a comparatively clear stream, flowing on its surface hundreds of pleasure-boats; and the houses which had back gardens or lawns extending down to the river were highly prized as dwellings by the wealthy classes. How changed now is both the river and its banks! The former has become a filthy sewer, the latter have been destroyed, and those who travel on it is so only as a route of business; on the latter the dwellings are abandoned and property immensely depreciated in value, unless accepted by wharfmen and others whose necessities compel them to locate there. And what has brought all this great change about? Simply the fact that there is poured into the River Thames every day about sixty millions of gallons of sewage, the filthy washings, soot, and excrements of the three millions of people who inhabit the mighty city that has grown up on its banks.

It is with not a little pleasure, then, that we have taken up for illustration and description the main drainage works now being carried out, because, according to the

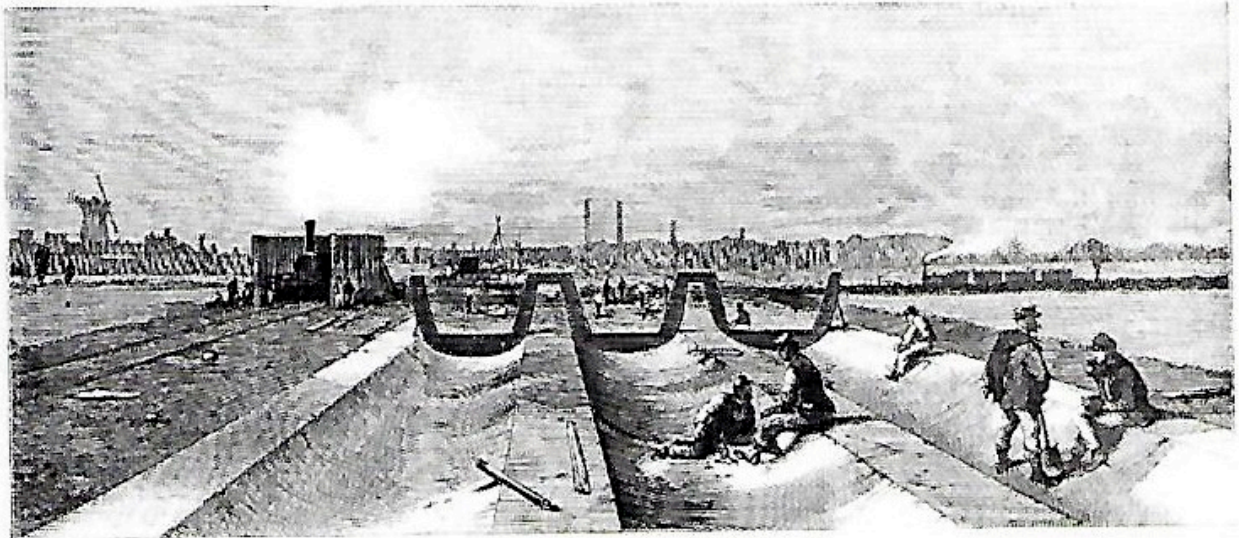


THE CONCRETE MILLS AT MILLWALL

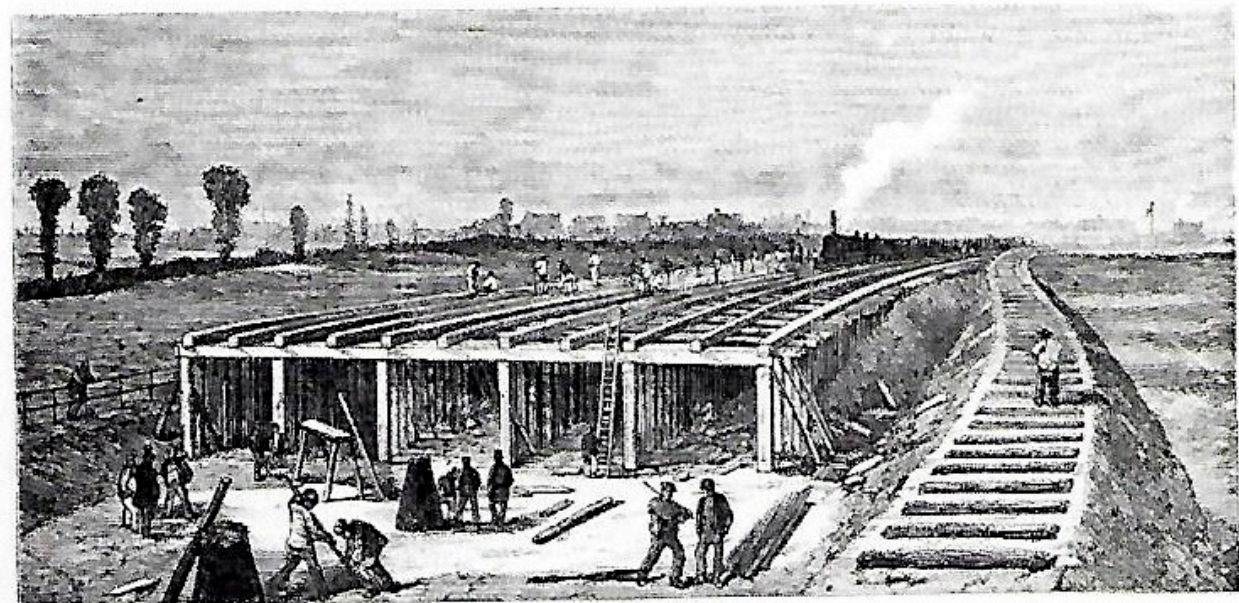
report of the engineer who superintends them, we may hope in the course of two years to be enabled to see the Thames assume its original character. We cannot make any sort of catching sewage at Lambeth-bridge were it that, but we may certainly expect at the expiration of the time stated to see the Thames a river which would compare advantage for its natural beauty and utility to the condition of the naturally pure river.

The object sought to be effected by the works under the London Main Drainage is to convey the sewage to its proper outlet, the river, and direct it by several channels to Lambeth-bridge, on the north side, and South Millwall on the south. These points are about fourteen miles below Lambeth-bridge, and it is intended that the future state of sewage will prevail from the bottom of the river here during the last ten years of the war only. The period of drainage is estimated to three hours, because the sewage would be contained up to that time by means of water-seals, and greater than that which now allows it to land, and because with this time would be required to be conveyed to the points to be below the outlet, or to be conveyed below Lambeth-bridge, through a constantly subsiding fund.

When the system is put into working order there will be no reason why the Thames may not rise and flow through London a perfectly clear stream, as the water of the sewage furnished at the time of the tide will have run so far down before low water that it is rendered impure.

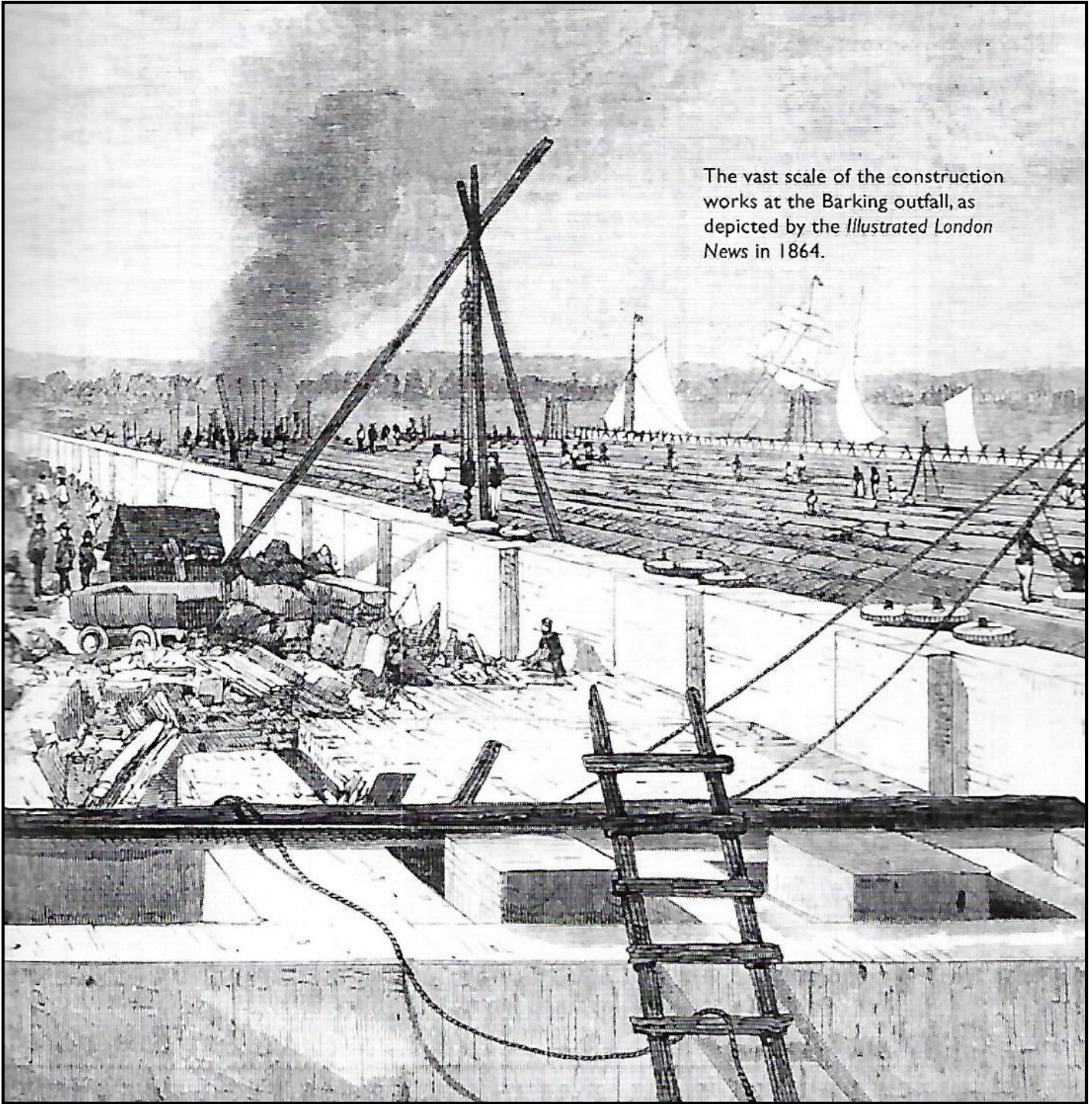


CONCRETE FOUNDATION FOR THE NORTHERN OUTFALL TUNNELS.



COMPLETING THE CONCRETE EMBANKMENT AROUND THE HEAD OF LAMBETH DEPOT, BEING THE CONCRETE.





The vast scale of the construction works at the Barking outfall, as depicted by the *Illustrated London News* in 1864.

Printed on This Paper for  
Foreign Postage.

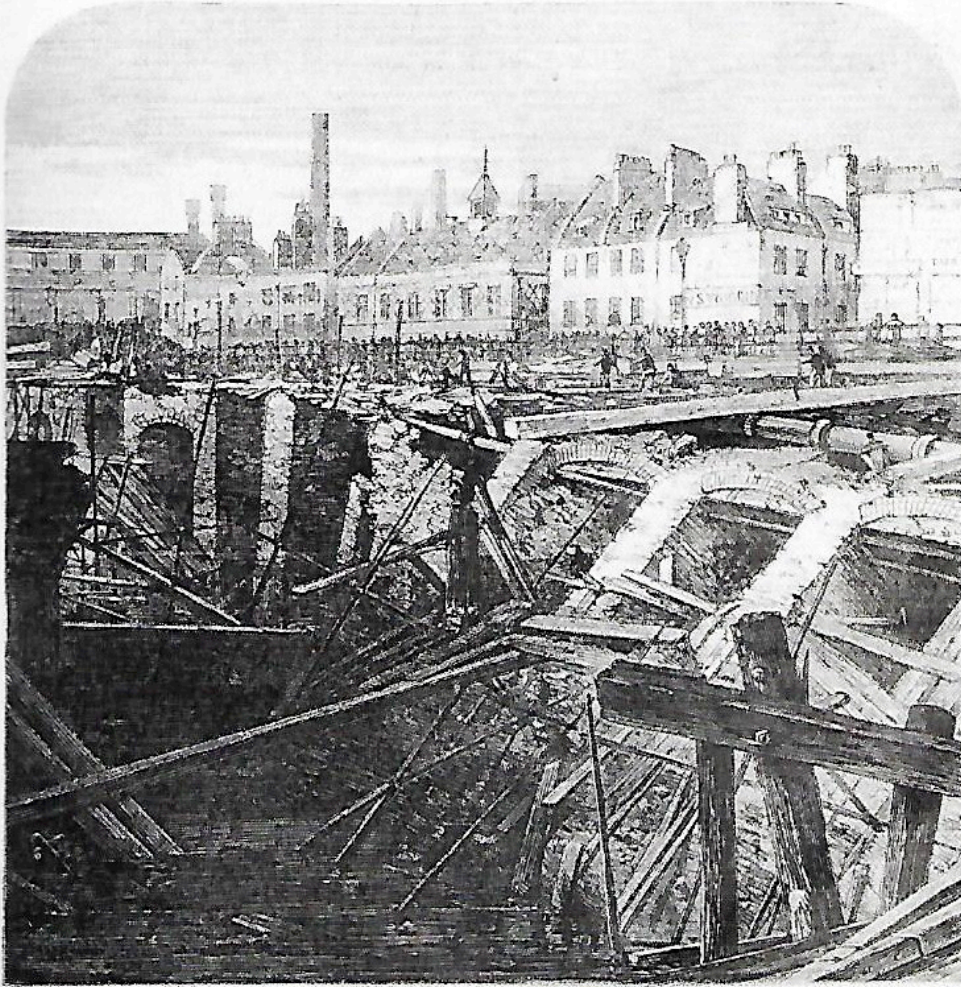
# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.



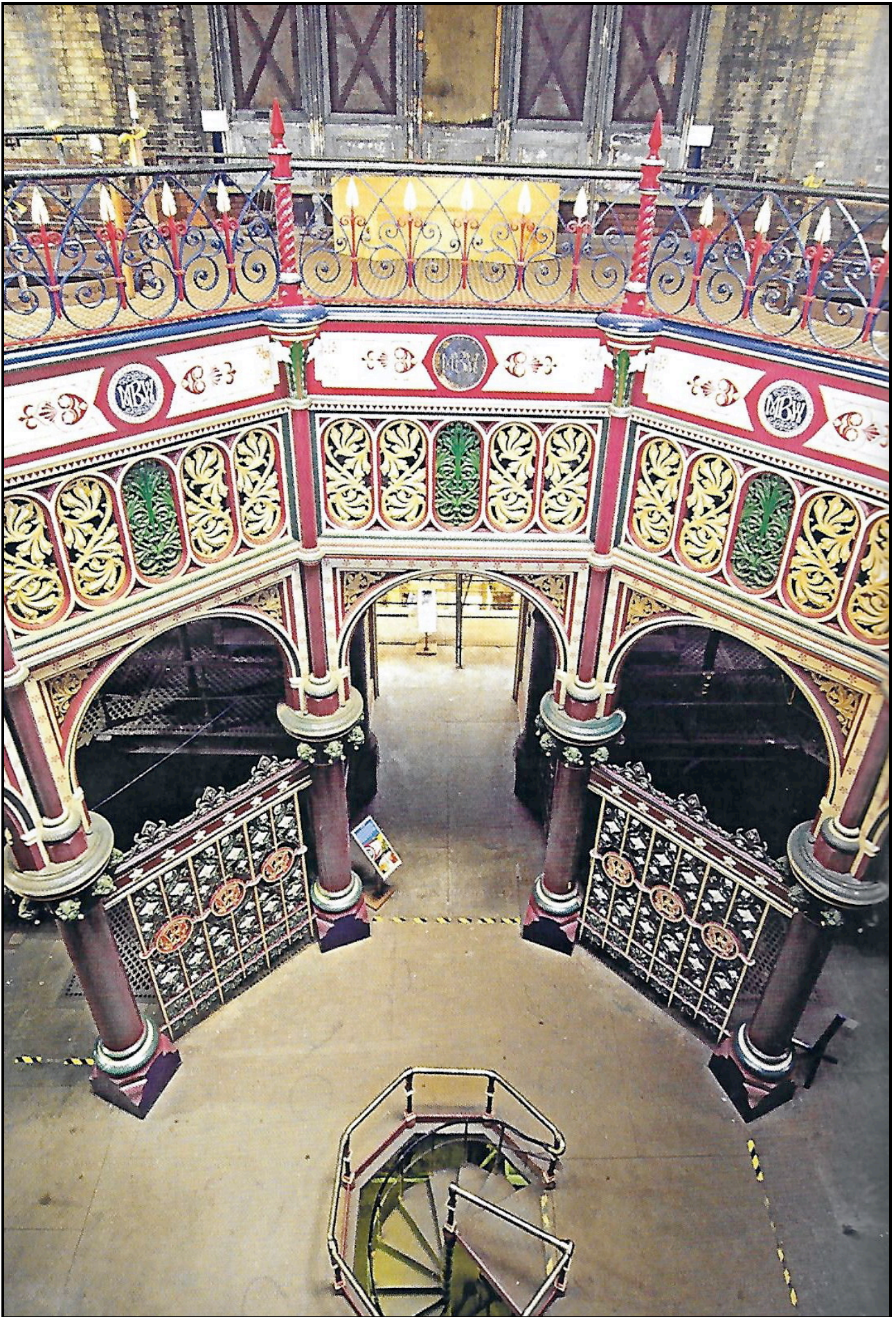
No. 1151. VOL. XL.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1862.

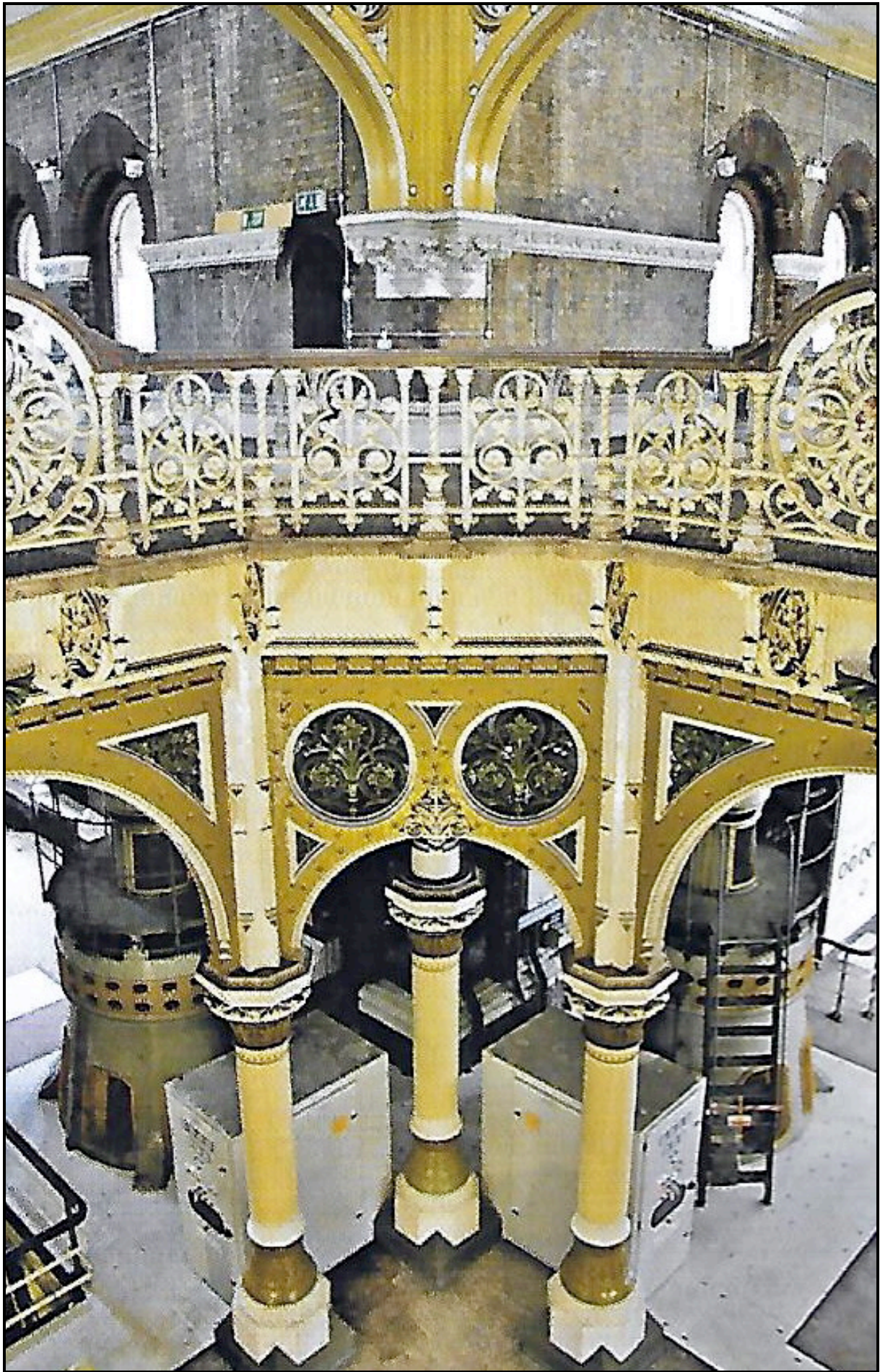
[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, FIVEPENCE.]



The front page of the *Illustrated London News* depicts the scene of destruction in Clerkenwell when the Fleet sewer burst through its walls after heavy rain in June 1862.



Crossness Pumping Station



Abbey Mills Pumping Station



**SOUTHERN PUMPING ESTABLISHMENT  
AT CROSSNESS.**

(14 MILES BELOW LONDON BRIDGE)

**THE METROPOLITAN MAIN DRAINAGE WORKS.**

*will be opened at Crossness on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 1865*

BY

**HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES**

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<i>Area drained on the North &amp; South sides of the Thames</i>	<i>17<math>\frac{1}{2}</math> Square Miles</i>
<i>Daily Discharge of Sewage</i>	<i>11,000,000 (cu. ft.)</i>
<i>Area of Reservoirs (together)</i>	<i>16 Acres</i>
<i>Engine Power</i>	<i>240 H.P.</i>
<i>Length of Main Drainage Sewers</i>	<i>8<math>\frac{1}{2}</math> Miles</i>
<i>Main drainage works commenced</i>	<i>31<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1859</i>

JOHN POLLARD ESQ. CLERK OF THE BOARD