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An interesting relic

Dean Milman, in his “Annals of St.Paul’s Cathedral”, mentions a fact which is not generally known. Speaking of the building of the Cathedral, he says – “The architect himself had the honour of laying the first stone, June 21, 1675.” The mallet which was used by Sir Christopher Wren on that memorable occasion is now the property of Mr. C.J. Freake of Bank Grove, near Kingston-on-Thames, and on Wednesday next it will used by her Royal Highness the Princess Mary Adelaide of Teck in the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new church schools at Kingston, Mr. Freake having lent it for the occasion.