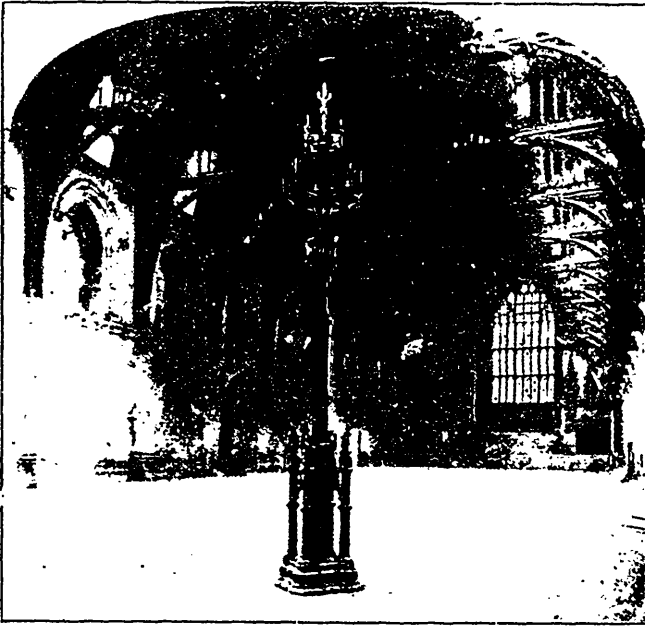


Hastings was impeached, for misgovernment in India, by the House of Commons at the bar of the House of Lords. The splendour of the spectacle, as depicted by the great master of historical narrative, familiar as it is to the reader, may well be repeated.

"Every step in the proceedings carried the mind either backward, through many troubled centuries, to the days when the foundations of

"The place was worthy of such a trial. It was the great Hall of William Rufus; the Hall which had resounded with acclamations at the inauguration of thirty kings; the Hall which had witnessed the just sentences of Bacon, and the just absolution of Somers; the Hall where the eloquence of Straf-ford had for a moment awed and melted a victorious party inflamed with a just resentment; the Hall



WESTMINSTER HALL AS IT APPEARS TO-DAY.

the constitution were laid, or far away, over boundless seas and deserts, to dusky nations, living under strange stars, worshipping strange gods, and writing strange characters from right to left. The High Court of Parliament was to sit, according to forms handed down from the days of the Plantagenets, on an Englishman being accused of exercising tyranny over the lord of the city of Benares and the ladies of the princely house of Oude.

where Charles had confronted the High Court of Justice with the placid courage which has half redeemed his fame.

"Neither military nor civil pomp was wanting. The avenues were lined with grenadiers. The streets were kept clear by cavalry. The peers, robed in gold and ermine, were marshalled by the heralds under Garter King-at-arms. The judges in their vestments of state, attended to give advice on points of