

top of the castle, we come to the banqueting hall, where, in old convivial days, the owners of the ancient mail, after skirmishes with their Saxon neighbours, dined on boar's head and home-brewed ale. It is a magnificent room and has no equal anywhere in Germany! The polished floor reflects a roof of marvellous brilliancy, while ranged around the walls are richly carved Gothic



THE FIRST COURT, WARTBURG.

stalls, surmounted by shields of strange device, which give to the apartment the character of an eastern hall, where Teutonic knights might practise mystic rites, or bishops of the ancient church hold their sacred conclaves. Feasting and revelry seem very little in character with these ecclesiastical decorations, and yet here the ancient Landgraves held the remarkable banquets that welcomed warriors from Palestine, when kings danced with