

But, to go back to the house, ladies are not admitted. They have been excluded since 1738, but there is a small gallery above the reporters for them. It is, however, separated from the main room by lattice work ; and so, during the debate, you see bonnets bobbing about, and eyes peering through ; and I expect many a feeling of disapproval is expressed in regard to the harsh rules that exclude them ; for, perched where they are, they can certainly hear very little that is said.

In leaving the House, you pass through Westminster Hall. The Law Courts are on the western side. This hall has witnessed many a scene of interest. Here Cromwell was installed Protector, and some years later it saw the brave old puritan's head decorating a pole. Here Charles the First was tried by his own subjects and condemned ; here took place the trial and acquittal of the seven Bishops ; while in later days it witnessed, among other things, the famous trial of Warren Hastings ; and since last April it has been visited by hundreds from all parts of the world, anxious to gain admission to the court-room, where the would-be Sir Roger C. D. Tichborne is being tried, or at least to get a sight of the world-renowned man. Ere this reaches you, the jury will have served their time, and the verdict will be given.

And now I will just call your attention to one other point of interest to be seen from the bridge. Up there on the left, above the Hospital, you see an old red brick tower, certainly not attractive for its architecture ; but it will become attractive to you when I tell you, that in it the Lollards were confined. Adjoining it is a very old chapel, built by Archbishop Boniface in 1244 ; and in that chapel is an oaken screen, placed there at the direction, and bearing the arms, of that Right Reverend old villain, Archbishop Laud. The tower and chapel are part of Lambeth Palace, the residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury since the 13th century. But there, I see you are delighted with the sound of that bell, and that beautiful clock-tower, connected with the Parliament Houses, has elicited your admiration ; so I must say a little about it and then close. We are told (and I find a sweet relief in believing everything I'm told in visiting places of interest), that the present clock-tower stands on almost the same site as the clock-tower built in the reign of King Edward the First. "The expense of the original tower was defrayed from a fine imposed on Ralph de Hingham, a Chief-Justice of England. Its intent was, by the clock striking continually, to remind the Judges in the neighbouring courts to administer true justice, they recalling thereby the occasion and means of its building." The dial in the now standing tower is 30 feet in diameter, and is the largest in the world, and—no, I have said enough.

I trust you have enjoyed our first excursion, and I shall be very pleased to conduct you somewhere else some other time.

Yours Institutely,

O. C. E.