

## WESTMINSTER HALL AND ITS MEMORIES.



THE GREAT TIMBERED ROOF.



ALMOST dwarfed by the size and magnificence of the new Houses of Parliament, the ancient Westminster Hall, that cradle of British Constitutional liberty, with its noble oaken roof, one of the finest in the kingdom, is yet haunted with memories more stirring and tragic than almost any other structure in the realm. It was first built, says

Augustus Hare, by William Rufus before 1100, was almost rebuilt by Richard II., who added the noble timbered roof which we now see. The Hall, which is 270 feet long and 74 feet broad, forms a glorious vestibule to the modern Houses of Parliament. Here Sir William Wallace was condemned to death in 1305, and Sir John Oldcastle, the Wycliffite, in 1418. Here, in 1517, three queens—Catherine of Arragon, Margaret of Scotland, and Mary of France—long upon their