



LONDON.—OLD HOUSES HOLBORN. These are perhaps the oldest houses in London. They date from the Elizabethan period. Their projecting timbered fronts form the street side of Staple Inn. An illustration of which is on page 164.

length of 940 feet, and is adorned by statues of kings and queens from William the Conqueror to Victoria. The Clock Tower is 360 feet high and 40 feet square. When Parliament is in session a light is shown from the Clock Tower at night, and during the day a flag flies from the large Victoria Tower. The clock is one of the finest time-keepers in the world. The hours are struck on the famous "Big Ben," so named in compliment to Sir Benjamin Hall, first Commissioner of Works when the bell was cast. The interior of the House of Lords is sumptuously decorated, the House of Commons is plain in comparison.

WATERLOO BRIDGE AND SOMERSET HOUSE.—No less an authority than Canova considered Waterloo Bridge the finest bridge in Europe. It has nine arches of 120 feet span each, with granite buttresses 20 feet thick. The width of the bridge is 42 feet and length 1,380 feet and cost upwards of a million pounds (\$5,000,000).

A grand view up and down the Thames can be had from the bridge.

SOMERSET HOUSE occupies the site of the palace begun in 1547 by the Protector Somerset, who did not live to see its completion. The Duke of Somerset drew from many quarters for his building materials. The cloisters of St. Paul's were pulled down and the stone used in his palace. The Charnel house and chapel also contributed material, and he had his eye on Westminster Abbey as a possible stone quarry. After Somerset's death the palace became royal property. It was named "Denmark House" in the time of James I.—this was in honor of his queen, Anne of Denmark. The queens of Charles I. and II. lived in the palace, and it was, after the Restoration, used as a lodging house for foreign potentates. Towards the end of the eighteenth century it was rebuilt and appropriated to public purposes; to-day it is used for government offices.