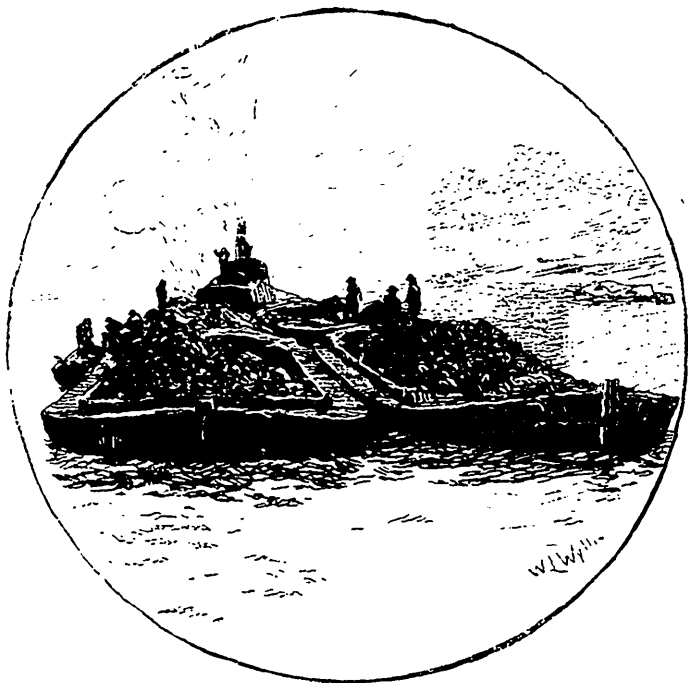


parks, given up by the Crown or bought out of Imperial funds, and maintained by annual votes of Parliament, are to the metropolis, may be judged by the fact that they comprise, altogether, nearly six thousand acres, and that their maintenance costs the public about £100,000 a year.

We will now refer briefly to the cuts which illustrate this article. We will begin with the Houses of Parliament. This stately pile is probably the largest Gothic edifice in the world,



COAL BARGES ON THE THAMES.

and in its symmetry and composition no less than in its imposing proportions is a not unworthy home of the Mother-Parliament of the world. It covers an area of nearly nine acres, presenting to the Thames a frontage of almost one thousand feet, and containing between five and six hundred distinct apartments, with two miles of corridors. About three millions sterling have been expended upon it; and the most rigid economist will hardly allege that the sum, vast as it is, has been ill spent.

One of the finest features of the pile is the Victoria Tower—the loftiest and largest square tower in the world, being seventy-five