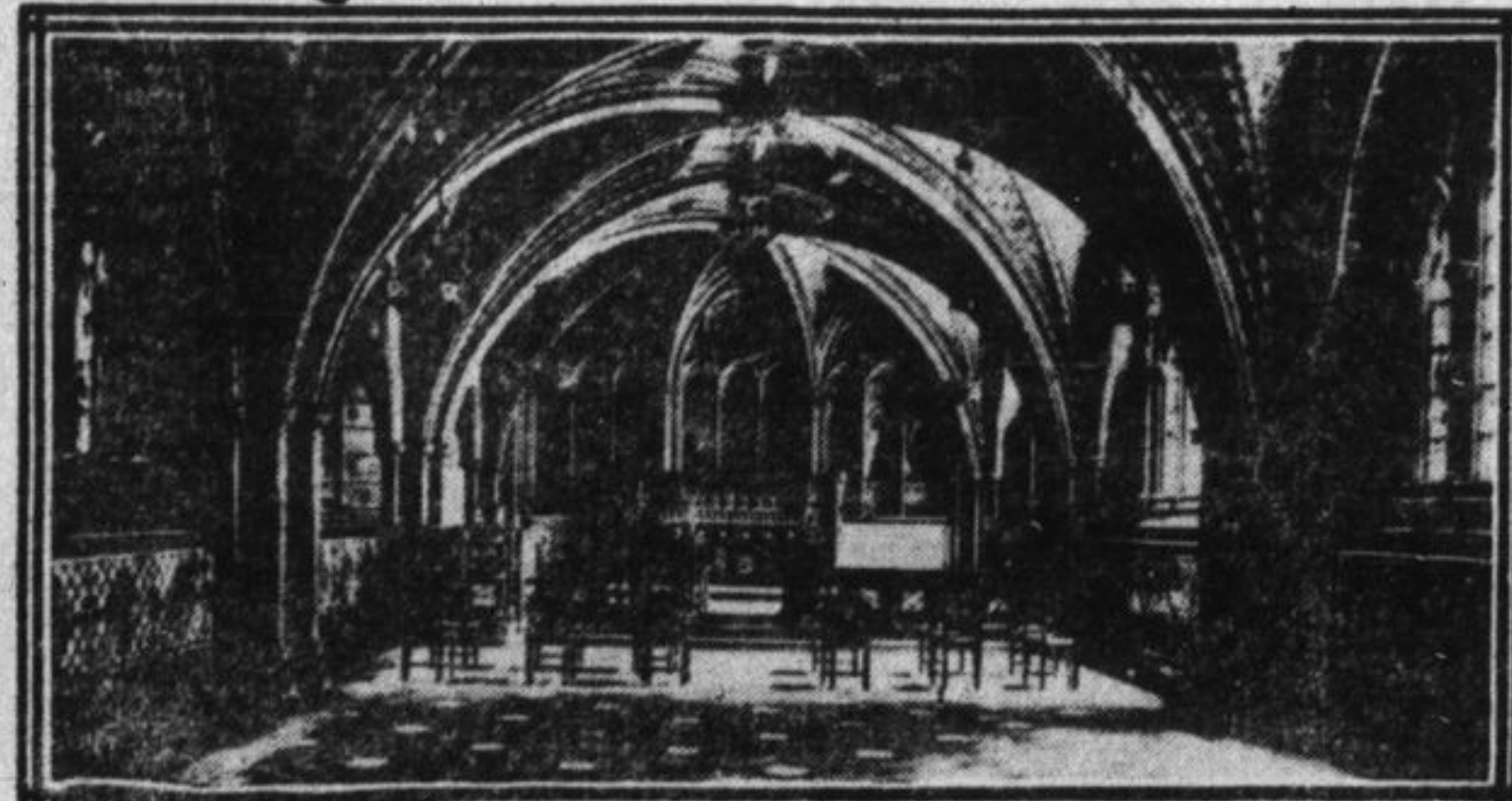
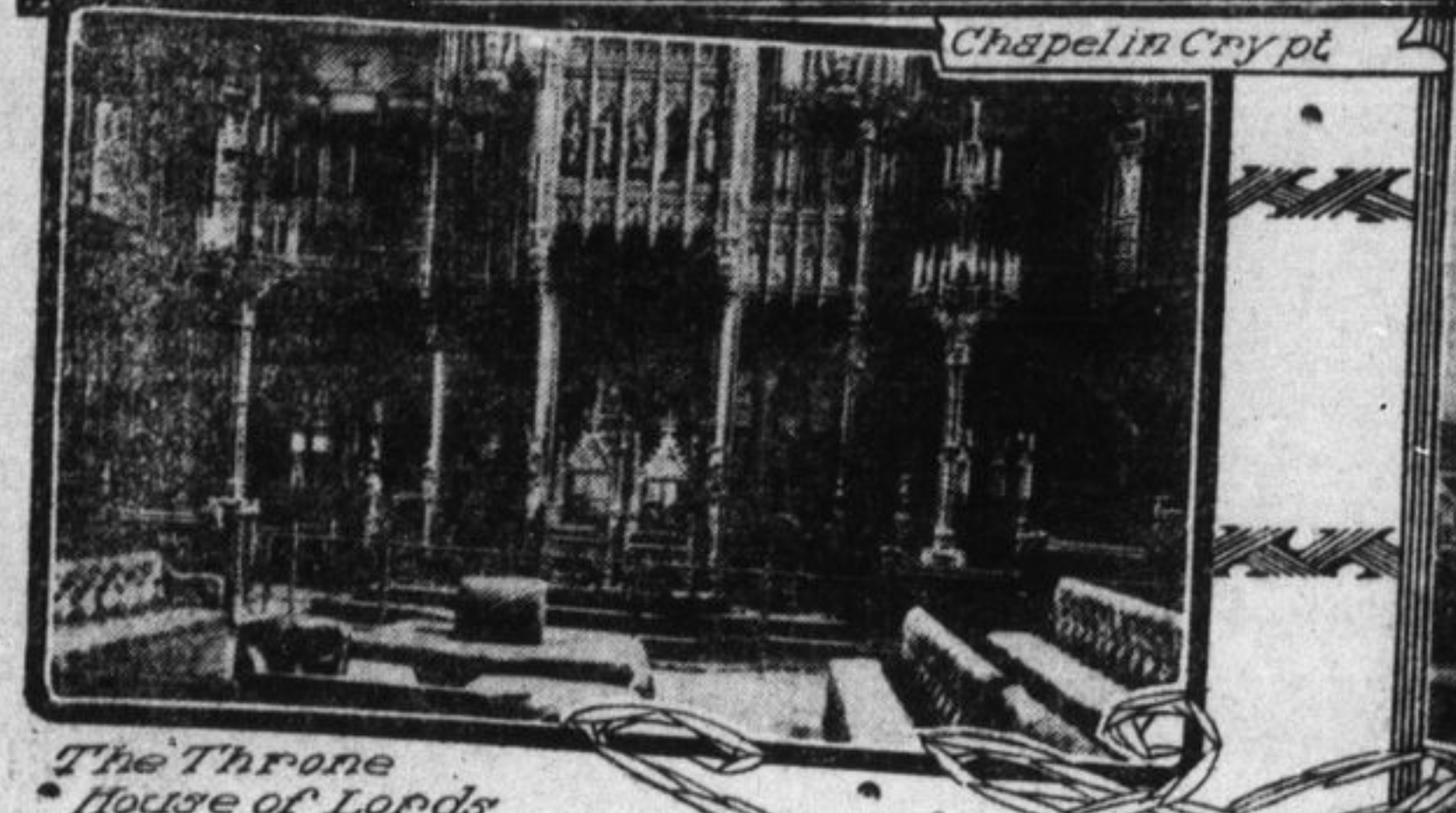
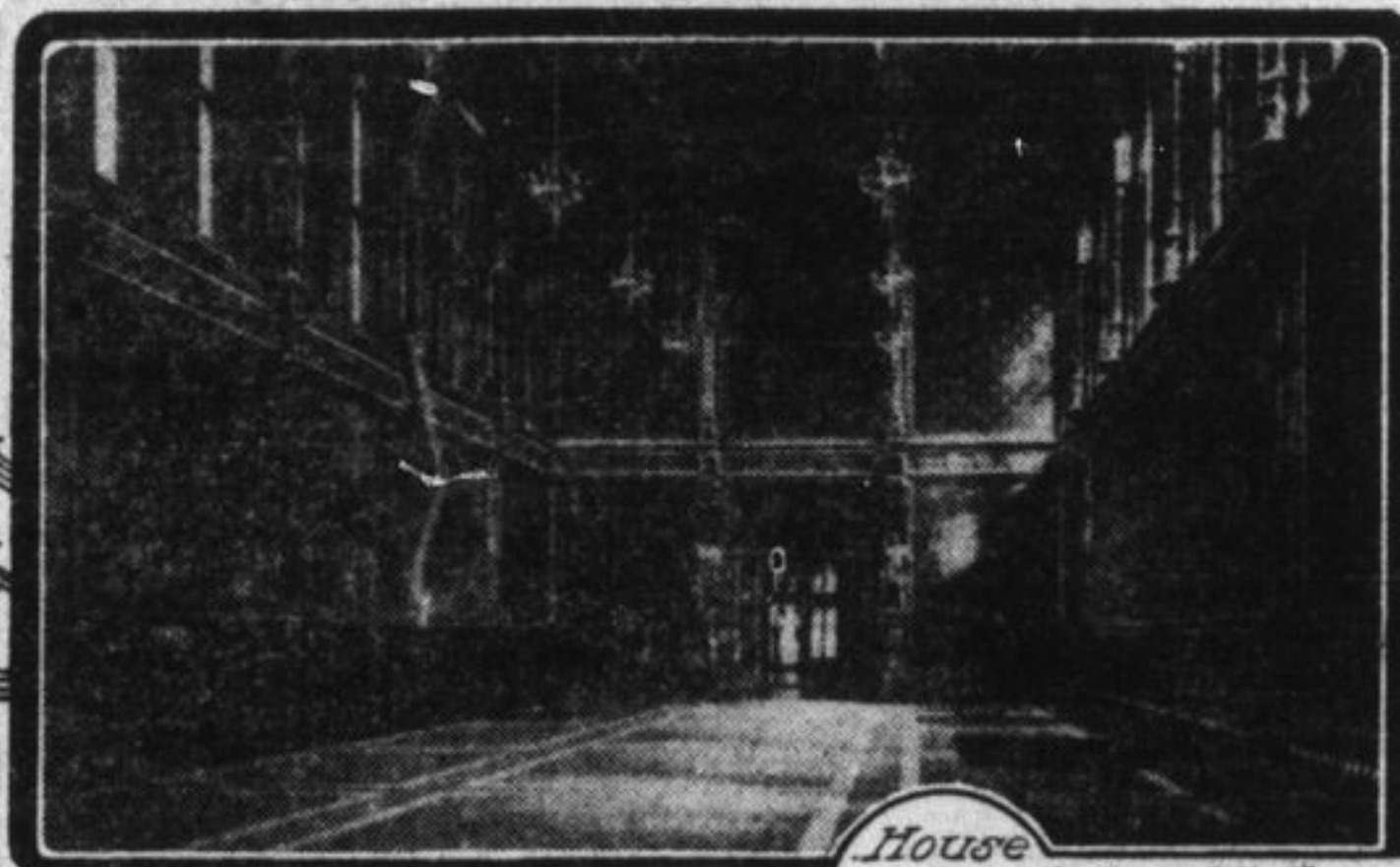


England's Beautiful Parliament



HOUSE



The Throne House of Lords



The House of Parliament From the River

England is justly proud of her famous Parliament House—that commanding structure which stands on the banks of the Thames and dominates the view of London from every point.

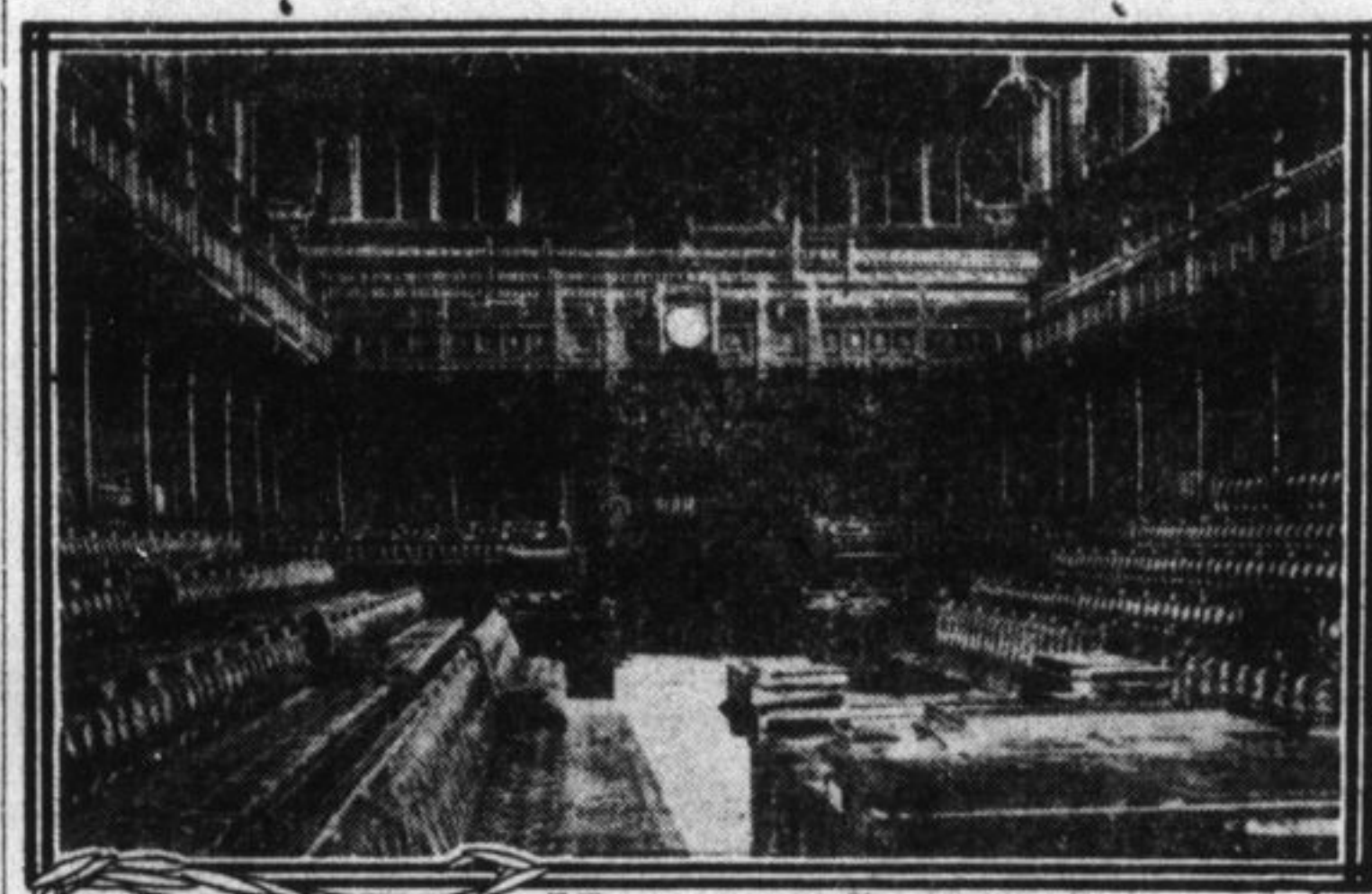
It covers eight acres and was erected at the cost of nearly fifteen million dollars. It is today the largest and most beautiful meeting place of any legislative body in the world. It was formerly known as the Palace at Westminster and was the home of a number of England's rulers before the time of Henry VIII. This monarch practically gave up possession of the splendid palace when he moved to Whitehall, leaving the Westminster Palace to the Lords, Commons and great offices of State.

The beginning of Parliament House dates back to the days of King Canute who when he came to the throne of England took under his protection the abbey and monastery of St. Peter's at Westminster adjacent to the palace. In 1035 a part of this palace was destroyed by fire but it was soon rebuilt. Additions were made in the succeeding reigns, notably by William Rufus to whom the existence of the present Great Hall is due. Henry III added other apartments and redecorated the old ones. Nearly all of the Plantagenet kings spent large sums on its extension and decoration. Several times it was partly destroyed, but this always resulted in the parts being rebuilt on a larger scale and decorated in a more beautiful fashion. The most extensive alterations were made during the reign of Edward II. The Courts of Law and the House of the High Treasurer and Lord Chancellor were rebuilt. The extent of the Palace at that period can be realized when it is known that it covered the whole of the site between Westminster Abbey and the river.

From the reign of Henry VIII the building at Westminster ceased to be a royal palace and all the succeeding events which occurred there are recorded in Parliamentary history. As time went on more space was required for the transaction of business and additions were added from time to time. This caused the accumulation of a lot of lumber in the cellars and an order was issued that it be burned in the grates. While this order was being carried out on October 10th, 1534, a fire broke out and notwithstanding that every effort was made to quench the flames the entire palace with the exception of the Great Hall was destroyed. Many of the pictures and articles of furniture were saved, but the historic old buildings representing the architecture of several centuries were swept away. The traditions, however, did not perish, for the rules and regulations of Parliament are the same to-day as they were centuries ago for no country clings to antiquated customs with a greater tenacity than Great Britain. As soon as the site could be cleared designs for a new building were invited, and one hundred and eight were submitted by English architects. A Parliamentary Commission was appointed to decide upon the style of architecture, and after much wrangling among its members the drawings that were submitted by Sir Charles Barry were selected. The design is based upon the Sixteenth Century Gothic style, with some modern additions. Barry was hampered by suggestions from the Commission from time to time, but he finally succeeded in having one of the most beautiful buildings in the world erected. Certainly as a specimen of Gothic architecture it excels anything in existence today.

The building contains over one thousand apartments, many of which are closed to the public. Since the recent outrages perpetrated by the suffragettes other rooms have been permanently closed and those who are permitted to enter are closely scrutinized and extra guards have been stationed throughout the building. Several times these women have made attempts to storm Parliament House and on one occasion a number of windows were broken. Now the English Government is taking extra precautions in guarding the splendid structure.

Visitors are shown through the building on Saturday, and ample time is allowed for a thorough inspection of the beautiful furnishings and decorations of the rooms. During the sessions of Parliament it is almost impossible to gain admittance as the accommodation for visitors is so limited that members are compelled to ballot each day for the right of issuing visitors' tickets. Parliament usually closes in session about two o'clock and closes at midnight. The visitors' entrance is by the royal staircase under the Victoria Tower which ascends to the Norman Porch, where a door on the right opens into the King's Robing Room. This apartment is rich in frescoes illustrating the legend of King Arthur. At the recent opening of Parliament, King George V used this chamber when he donned his robe and crown for the procession which passed



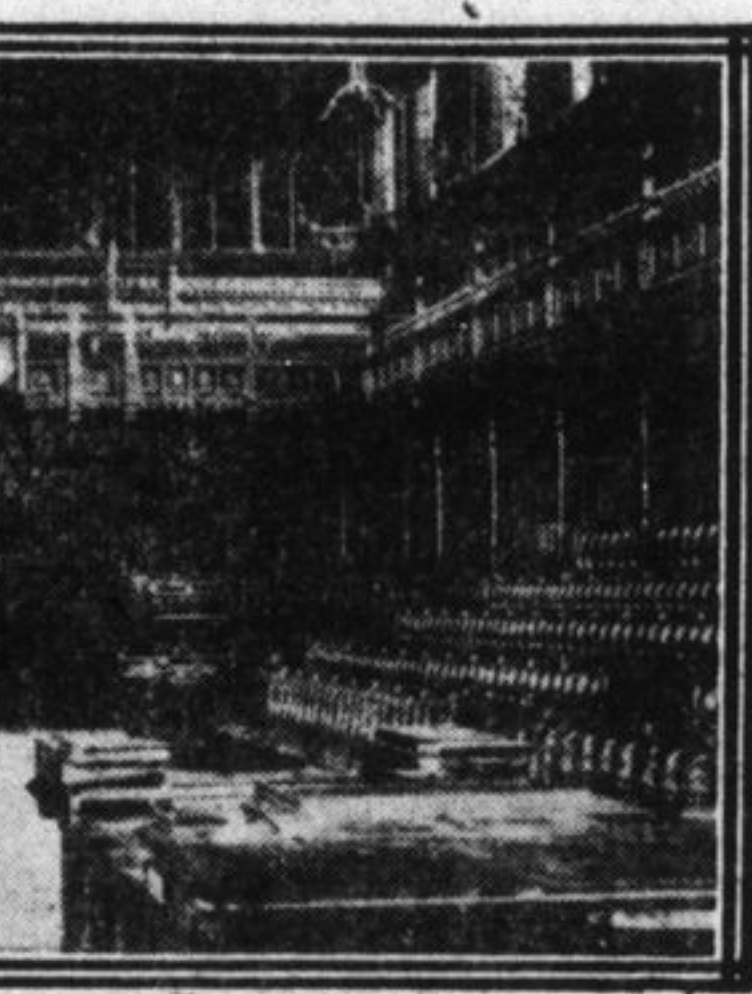
House of Commons

through the Royal Gallery to the House of Lords. There is nothing particularly noteworthy in this Gallery except the two large frescoes "The Death of Nelson" and "The Meeting of Wellington and Blucher After Waterloo."

It would be useless to attempt to describe in detail the beauties of these apartments, and the writer must be content to tell only of the things which seem to please the average traveler and the House of Lords is one of these. It has been called the "Gilded Chamber," and justly, too, for it is certainly the most gorgeous apartment in the whole building. It is lighted by twelve stained glass windows containing portraits of the Kings and Queens of England. In the niches between the windows are statues of the barons who compelled King John to sign Magna Charta. Red morocco benches are used to seat the five hundred and fifty noble Lords who are entitled to seats in the House. The throne, covered with a gilded canopy, is at the South end of the room. On the left is the Queen's throne, and on the right is a lower throne for the Prince of Wales. The seats on either side are reserved for Ambassadors and other distinguished guests. Directly in front is the "Woolack" on which the Lord Chancellor sits, and the right of the House is the Bar at which the faithful Commons attend to hear the speech from the Throne and to hear the Royal Assent to the bills which they have passed. Above are two galleries—a small one for favored visitors and a hundred and eight were submitted by English architects. A Parliamentary Commission was appointed to decide upon the style of architecture, and after much wrangling among its members the drawings that were submitted by Sir Charles Barry were selected. The design is based upon the Sixteenth Century Gothic style, with some modern additions. Barry was hampered by suggestions from the Commission from time to time, but he finally succeeded in having one of the most beautiful buildings in the world erected. Certainly as a specimen of Gothic architecture it excels anything in existence today.

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IN WESTON VICARAGE.

A Disembodied Aunt Walks Through Solid Walls.

There is a weird appeal in the story of the amazing, ghostly visitations at the haunted vicarage of Weston All Saints, near Olney, Yorkshire, where because of the spiritualistic teachings of the vicar, the Rev. Charles L. Tweedale, the congregation has dwindled from hundreds to one, and where, when a vestry meeting was called to elect a people's warden, only the vicar's wife attended, and she was appointed to the post only on the hearsay of two thousand years ago, but prove the ancient gospel by quoting instances of physical phenomena that have occurred in my own home, this house.

"On one occasion, for example, an aunt of mine, who died some years ago, appeared to us all one Christmas evening. She was dressed in a long white flowing robe resembling lace. She came right through the wall and walked right through the Christmas tree.

"When I got up to grab her she ran away through the door. "I called to my wife and to two others who were coming up the passage to stop her, and I hurriedly followed. The two tried to stop her in the passage, but she passed right through them. "As my wife grabbed at her we all heard (but could not see) a ghost dog loudly barking on the stairs, as though protecting his spiritual mistress.

"We have all seen it since many times walking with my aunt. Even my little girl, Dorothy, who was a month three years old at the time, saw the dog run round a room and under a bed. "My other children and four independent passersby told me afterward that they had seen a ghost dog running about my front garden in broad daylight.

"Articles move about in broad lamplight, ornaments dance about on the piano and tables, and on one occasion my children were playing in the dining room when all the chairs were knocked over one by one. Great, heavy armchairs, some of them.

"On one occasion only did the spirits do any real damage. We found a valuable set of bedroom ornaments broken. The spirits had forgotten to remove them from the dressing table before they moved it about. "So I asked the spirits if they would please not break any more goods, and ever since then they have not done so. "They frequently throw things at my wife, evidently to attract her attention. I was in the room alone with her on one occasion, and looking up, saw a large bunch of keys coming swiftly toward my wife. It hit her on the back of the head and bounced off on to the floor.

"Whenever they throw things they are always careful to hit you on a spot that will not be painful. For instance, every time they throw objects at my wife they always, with marvellous accuracy, hit her on the back of her head. "The spirits are not always an annoyance. On one occasion, while sitting before the fire with some relations, a jewel case suddenly dropped between us. "The door and window were shut, so that we could not tell whence it came. It was covered with mould and moss and very decayed. Opening it we found a bracelet and a few other articles of jewellery which we recognized as some my mother had lost twenty years before. "Investigators from the Psychological Research Society have visited the vicarage and after careful investigation have convinced themselves that all these phenomena have really taken place.

A Judge's Blunder. In Paris, a poor workman, whose sole treasure was a Guarnerius violin, made in 1715, went to sleep in a safe and somebody stole the instrument. He complained to a magistrate. When he told that the violin was worth \$24,000, which was true, the magistrate decided he was crazy and sent him to jail.



On the shady side of 140 Pounds

If your weight exceeds 140 lbs. the tell-tale scale urges the wearing of the La Diva No. 809 corset known as the "NU MODE" sustaining.

This corset not only improves the appearance by reducing the abdomen by as much as six inches, while helping a graceful and erect figure, but it gives great comfort either sitting or standing—freedom from pressure which soon turn to pain—freedom from breaking over the hips—these qualities being assured by their patented construction. Its price is only \$4.00.



Many imported so-called reducing corsets, which on account of customs duties are sold at from \$1.00 to \$3.00 more than the NU MODE are neither as comfortable nor as stylish. There is a D. & A. or a La Diva model for every figure. Our catalogue, sent free on request, will help you to choose the best for yours. DOMINION CORSET CO. QUEBEC.

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CHAS. A. MURTON, Secretary

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