

Dismal history from the woman of the foolish man who made these great additions to the former house, ruined himself, and died in prison! His wife, seeing that all was going wrong, became insane, and died before him."

When the deserted house was at its worst, and there was hardly a whole pane of glass left in any of the windows, Christopher Crean, cook to the Duke of York, took it, and after renewing its appearance, he opened the hotel with some *éclat*



in 1809. After Crean's death, his widow continued the business, and the fame of the place being high, it became unpleasantly noted for the extravagance of its charges. Indeed, it is said that a visitor paid half-a-sovereign for the privilege of looking through one of its windows. In 1822 it passed into the hands of a Mr. Joseph Ellis, in whose family it remained till 1864, when it was turned into a limited liability company. The new company at once erected a large building, from the designs of Mr. E. M. Barry, R.A., by the side of the old hotel, which still remained. In February, 1870, the whole of the original "Star and Garter" was destroyed by fire, and now a palace has arisen upon its site. The hotel has been for many years the favourite resort of all classes, and there are few persons but have found themselves at some time under its roof. Its nearness to London and the beauty of its situation has pointed it out as a peculiarly suitable place for wedding-parties and for the dinners of the Bank of England directors, as well as for those of all the great City companies.

The fire which destroyed the original "Star and

Garter" left untouched the new hotel towards the park, and also the large dining-room towards the town, now turned into a grand concert hall. For several years afterwards the site was a mass of ruins; in 1872, however, all this was cleared away, and an important building, the Pavilion, was reared, uniting this hall to the Hotel. The Pavilion is 116 ft. by 70 ft., and has for its principal feature a ball-room, 80 ft. by 61 ft., with windows facing the terrace and river on one side, and the

main road on the other, and affording dancing or dining accommodation to 400 persons. It is 33 feet high in the centre, and has a counter-ceiling of ground glass, from which depends a gas chandelier of 96 lights. At a height of 16 ft. from the floor an open loggia runs round the hall, opening out of which are thirteen rooms for private parties, all having a charming prospect.



THE OLD "STAR AND GARTER."

There is also an orchestra for a band of fifty performers.

An octagonal vestibule forms a junction with the hotel, and, fitted up with ferns and plants, affords a pleasant lounge. The entrance next the large banquetting-hall can be closed off from the restaurant, so that two public dinners or private parties are frequently held at the same time without in any way interfering with each other.

The new Pavilion is Italian Romanesque in its architecture; it has two storeys of open loggias towards the road, while towards the gardens it has three storeys, the basement being occupied by a central kitchen, &c. On this lower floor is a billiard and smoking room, opening out upon