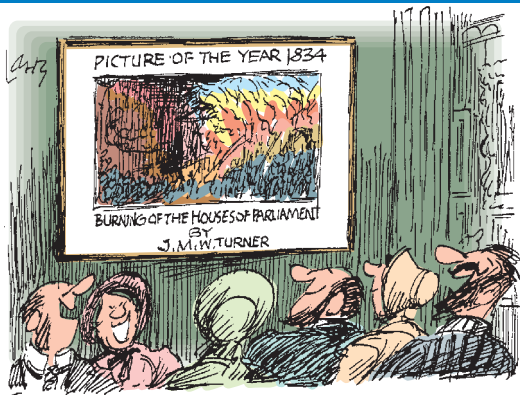


The Palace of Westminster



Parliament is housed in its present gothic style of building because the Exchequer, in a manner of speaking, burnt the old one down in 1834

Huge numbers of tally sticks – pieces of notched elm wood split in two to record payment made to and received by the Exchequer – had become superfluous and were thrown into the furnace beneath the House of Lords. Not a good idea, because the overstoked fire destroyed most of the building by the next morning!

The replacement, designed by **Sir Charles Barry** and **Augustus Pugin**, was damaged 14 times in World

War II air raids, including the entire loss of the Commons Chamber, but was restored and officially reopened in 1950