

"HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE."

Mr. Tree informs us that his playhouse in the Haymarket will henceforth be known as "His Majesty's Theatre," the King having graciously sanctioned and approved of this title. The alteration is appropriate, for it is in accord with the traditions of nearly two centuries. Every place of entertainment which has stood on the site of "His Majesty's Theatre" has been identified in name with the reigning sovereign. The first building was erected by Vanbrugh in 1705, and was called "The Queen's Theatre or Opera House." Twenty-five years later a sum was raised by public subscription amounting to £50,000, to which George I. contributed from the privy purse, when the name was changed to "The King's Theatre." It was burnt down in 1789, rebuilt in 1790, and reconstructed in 1818. By Royal permission it remained "The King's Theatre" throughout the reigns of George I., George II., George III., George IV., and William IV., but when the late Queen ascended the throne the title was again altered to "Her Majesty's Theatre." Again destroyed by fire in 1867, it was rebuilt in the following year, and pulled down in 1892. Mr. Tree completed the present edifice in 1897, and opened it on the 28th April of that year.