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KENTISH HOMES





# KENTISH HOMES

VISITED BY THE STAFF AND NURSES  
OF THE ONTARIO MILITARY HOSPITAL  
ORPINGTON, KENT, IN 1916

EDITED BY

CHARLES J. PHILLIPS

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, KENT ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

LONDON  
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PETERBOROUGH, ONT.





DEDICATED TO  
LIEUT.-COLONEL D. W. AND MRS. McPHERSON  
AND THE  
STAFF, DOCTORS AND NURSES  
OF THE  
ONTARIO MILITARY HOSPITAL AT ORPINGTON  
WHO  
TO THE NUMBER OF OVER ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY  
HAVE LEFT THEIR HOMES AND IN MANY CASES  
HAVE SACRIFICED LUCRATIVE APPOINTMENTS  
TO HELP OUR BRAVE WOUNDED

COMBE BANK,

NEAR SEVENOAKS.

*Jan. 16th, 1917.*

## TO THE OFFICERS AND NURSING STAFF OF THE ONTARIO MILITARY HOSPITAL

YOUR prolonged stay in this country, in pursuance of the invaluable service you are rendering to those wounded in the course of the war, has given me the opportunity of the further realization of a long-felt wish to make you, who came from your Dominion, acquainted with some of the more historic and intimate phases of our old Mother Country, by showing you the ancestral homes of those to whom much of the greatness of our Empire is due.

We have been equally fortunate in securing such a learned and able cicerone as Mr. Phillips has proved to be in arranging these excursions for us, and I welcomed his suggestion, which he has undertaken as a labour of love, of producing this little volume as a memento of the places we have visited.

May it serve on your return home to be a recollection both of the work you have so successfully accomplished here, and also help to make more vivid the inseparable connection which binds us together.

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT MOND.



## Introduction



IN May, 1916, the Province of Ontario completed the erection of a fine military hospital at Orpington, in Kent.

This hospital at first had about 1040 beds, but is now being extended, and early in 1917 it will have accommodation for some 2040 wounded men.

The whole of the expenses have been borne by the Province of Ontario, and the hospital is thoroughly up to date, and fitted with the latest appliances in surgery and medical science.

As this is a Canadian hospital many people think it is only for the treatment of Canadian wounded, but this idea is quite erroneous, as the hospital is for any British wounded that the authorities care to send along, and, as a matter of fact, the Canadians who have been treated there only number some 2 per cent of the total that have passed through the wards.

The staff has been most carefully selected from the leading surgeons and doctors in Canada, and the nurses are all fully qualified and have had three years' training at least before they could be accepted.

In July last Mr. Robert Mond, of Combe Bank, near

Sevenoaks, asked me if I would, on his behalf, undertake the organization of weekly parties of the nurses and doctors to visit historical mansions in this district of Kent.

The nobility and gentry have responded most kindly to my request to throw open their mansions to our Canadian visitors, and we have been able to visit many homes of great historical interest.

As a rule from sixteen to twenty nurses and doctors have been met at 3 p.m. at Tubs Hill Station, Sevenoaks. They have had interesting drives through some of the finest scenery in Kent, so well named The Garden of England, and have been generously entertained at tea by most of the owners of the mansions noted in this little brochure, and have then been shown over the houses and grounds, and in the evenings have usually been taken on to dinner at Combe Bank, and returned to the hospital at 11 p.m.

Speaking for the Canadians, I am sure these visits have been of great benefit to them, and have been a welcome break in their patriotic work.

In a small way it has also done what is so desirable—that is, to further cement, whenever possible, the feeling of brotherhood between the old country and her grand and glorious children across the seas.

Our visitors have often expressed a wish to know something of the history of the places they have visited and of the hosts and hostesses who have so kindly

received them, and it has been a great pleasure for me to write these short descriptions of our near-by Kentish Homes.

The illustrations are taken from engravings, prints, and photographs in my collection of Kentish books and prints.

CHARLES J. PHILLIPS.

THE GLEBE,  
SEVENOAKS, KENT.





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# KENTISH HOMES

## Knole

“The stately homes of England!  
How beautiful they stand!  
Amidst their tall ancestral trees,  
O'er all the pleasant land.”—MRS. HEMANS.

HE first trip arranged for the Canadians was naturally to historic Knole, the famous home of the Sackvilles, which was visited on July 29th, 1916.

The principal entrance is opposite the old parish church of Sevenoaks. The magnificent park is just under five miles round, and contains about one thousand acres. It is well stocked with a fine herd of several hundred deer, and the mansion itself stands on high ground about one-third of a mile from the entrance and approached through a fine wooded drive.

A bird's-eye view is given, as that enables one best to judge the extent of this noble pile.

Knole as seen at present is the growth of many centuries. The oldest portion of the house goes back to about 1190, but the bulk of it is the work of Thomas Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury 1456 to 1486, and Thomas Sackville, 1st Earl of Dorset, 1603-8. Some

ugly additions were made by Lord Whitworth, 1800 to 1810.

Entering under the Bouchier Tower, we pass into the Green Court, then past the entrances to the private apartments across the Stone Court to the magnificent Great Hall, 75 ft. long and 27 ft. wide. The carved oak screen, under the minstrels' gallery, is of the time of James I, and is in the first rank of its period. It is highly ornamented with the Sackville arms and motto: "*Tous jours loyal*."

The fire-dogs here are of special interest, as they bear the arms and initials of Henry VIII and of Anne Boleyn.

The magnificent full-length pictures in the Great Hall include the following Van Dycks: Frances Cranfield, Countess of Dorset; Edward Sackville, 4th Earl of Dorset; and pictures by Pourbus, Reynolds, Lawrence, etc.

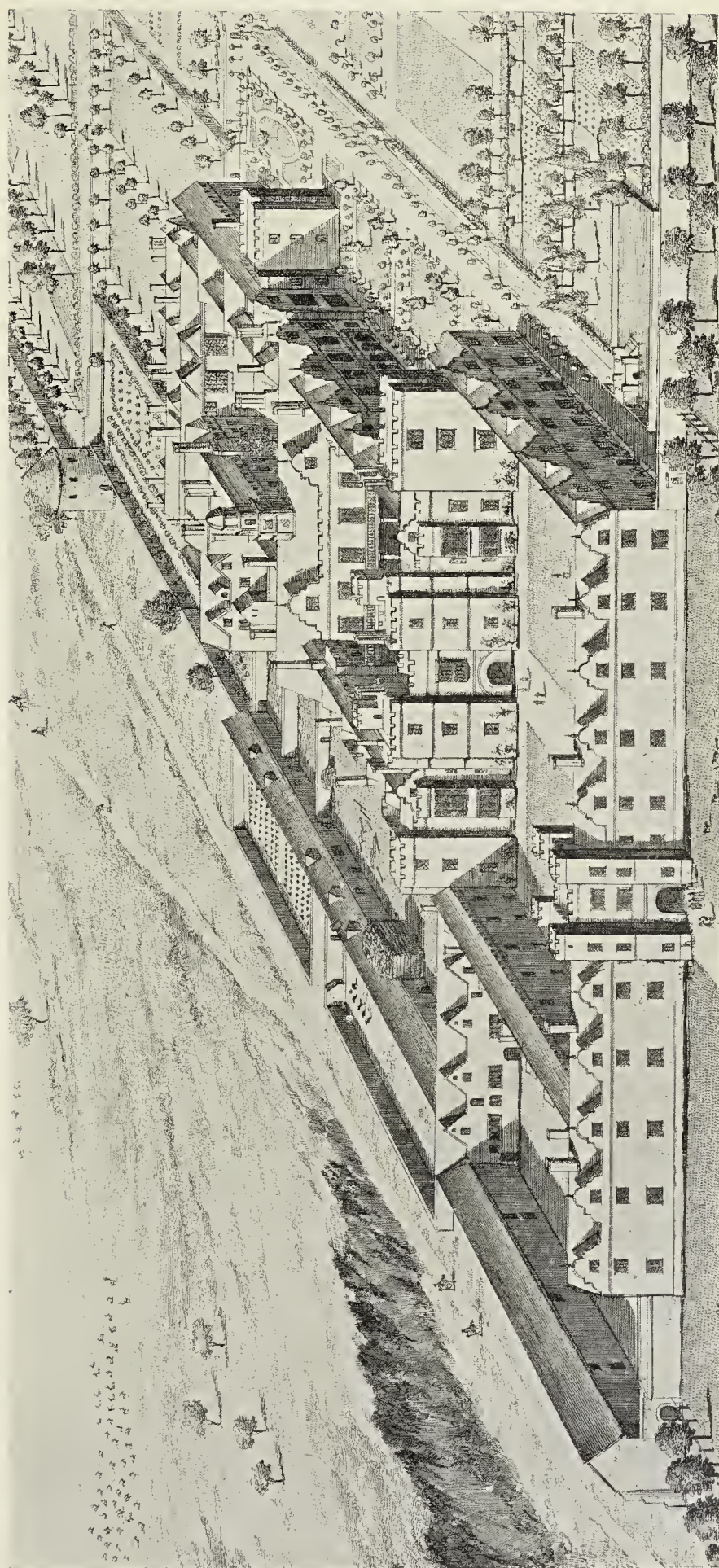
After passing up the grand staircase the Ball Room was examined, and the grand collection of family portraits much admired. These include masterpieces by Gainsborough, Kneller, Dahl, Mytens, van Somer, G. L. Sanders, Vigée Le Brun, etc.

The Reynolds Room is famous for the collection of twelve paintings by that master; but what was more admired was the superb Hoppner, a full length of Arabella Diana, 3rd Duchess of Dorset.

Attention was also drawn to the fine Persian woollen pile carpet of the time of Queen Elizabeth, and known to be one of the most important carpets in this country.

Passing through the Cartoon Gallery, in which one noted the chairs and stools of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and the copies of the famous Raphael cartoons, painted by Mytens, we came to King James' bedroom with the superb bed and hangings, prepared for James I





## KNOLE

MAIN ENTRANCE AND BIRD'S-EYE VIEW, 1729





at a cost of £8000. The marvellous collection of silver work was specially admired, as well as the tapestry on the walls.

We next pass through the Brown Gallery with its fine collection of chairs, settees, and footstools, mostly covered in old embroidered velvet, and with the large collection of pictures on panels, by John van Belcamp, of the more remarkable persons of the reigns of Henry VIII, Elizabeth, and James I. Next we enter the private rooms of Lady Betty Germaine, which contain a small collection of pictures of the Italian school.

Passing through the spangled bedroom with its fine panels of Brussels tapestry of the late seventeenth century, we come to the Lely room with its collection of some of the Beauties of the Court of Charles II; then through the old billiard room with its table of the time of Charles I. Here also is a remarkable set of "folding chairs" of the time of Cromwell.

The Leicester Gallery with its fine picture of King James I painted in one of the famous Knoles chairs and the masterpieces of Mytens and other famous painters was much admired. Also one noted here the curious old glass drinking glasses, one of them a yard long, and the leather jacks, which caused a French visitor to London in the seventeenth century to exclaim on his return home: "The English are an uncivilized race, they drink out of their boots."

Last of all we visited the chapel built about 1460, and attention was drawn to the superb tapestry, the large panels being Flemish work of the end of the fifteenth century; the scenes from the four Gospels depict events that took place on the first Good Friday morning. Of special interest are the carved figures which stand on a shelf over

the triptych on the altar. They were given by Mary Queen of Scots, to Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst, in December, 1586, when he was sent by Queen Elizabeth to Fotheringay Castle to announce to that unfortunate Queen the sentence of death passed upon her.

The following are some of the chief owners of Knole with the dates when it passed into their possession :—

1199.	Baldwin de Betun, Earl of Albemarle.		
1203.	William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke.		
?	Hugh Bigod, 3rd Earl of Norfolk.		
1282.	Otho de Grandison.		
1327.	Geoffry de Say.		
1422.	Ralph Leghe.		
1456.	Sir W. Fiennes, Lord Say and Sele.		
1456.	Thomas Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury.		
1486.	John Morton	„	„
1500.	Henry Dene	„	„
1502.	William Warham	„	„
1532.	Thomas Cranmer	„	„
1539.	King Henry VIII.		
1547.	King Edward VI.		
1547.	John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland.		
1553.	Queen Mary.		
1553.	Cardinal Pole.		
1558.	Queen Elizabeth.		
1566.	John Lennard, of Chevening.		
1603.	Thomas Sackville, 1st Earl of Dorset.		

To give some idea of the vast extent of this mansion I may mention that it contains 365 rooms, 52 staircases, and 12 courts, corresponding to the days, weeks, and months of the year.

After leaving Knole the party drove to “The Glebe,” Sevenoaks, where tea was provided by Mrs. Phillips.





KNOLE

SOUTH FRONT, *circa* 1830





## Ightham Mote



OUR excursion on August 5th was to this famous moated mansion, five miles from Sevenoaks, in the small village of Ivy Hatch.

The party was received by Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Colyer-Fergusson and divided into two groups, the host taking one party in one direction, while the rest inspected the famous house and its many treasures under the guidance of the hostess.

Ightham Mote exemplifies the gradual progress of the manor-house from the semi-fortress of the Plantagenets to the dwelling-house of the Tudor period. The plan of the house is quadrangular, the moat surrounding it on all sides.

The oldest portion is supposed to date back to the time of Edward II, but the bulk is probably of the time of Henry VIII.

Passing over the moat we come to the massive Tudor gateway tower, with wicket in the double gate, leading into the charming court-yard, with its picturesque surroundings.

On the right hand side of the entrance is the morning-room, at the end of which a short passage leads to the fine library with its grand collection of books, in which Kentish history, archæology, and heraldry are specially well represented.

Facing the entrance lies the old hall, which is supposed to have been built about 1350 by Sir Thomas Cawne. The

hall is 30 feet long and 20 feet wide, the roof being carried on a stone arch and curved timbers, making it extremely picturesque. The great fire-place, 7 feet wide, is of the fifteenth century, and the window in the inner hall is a beautiful variety of the middle decorated style belonging to the earlier part of Edward III's reign.

The corbels supporting the roof beams are very interesting; one consists of a grotesque human figure, crushed down by the weight of the roof; another of a man with drapery on his head, carrying the weight on a cushion on his back, and with two fingers of each hand pulling his mouth open at the corners.

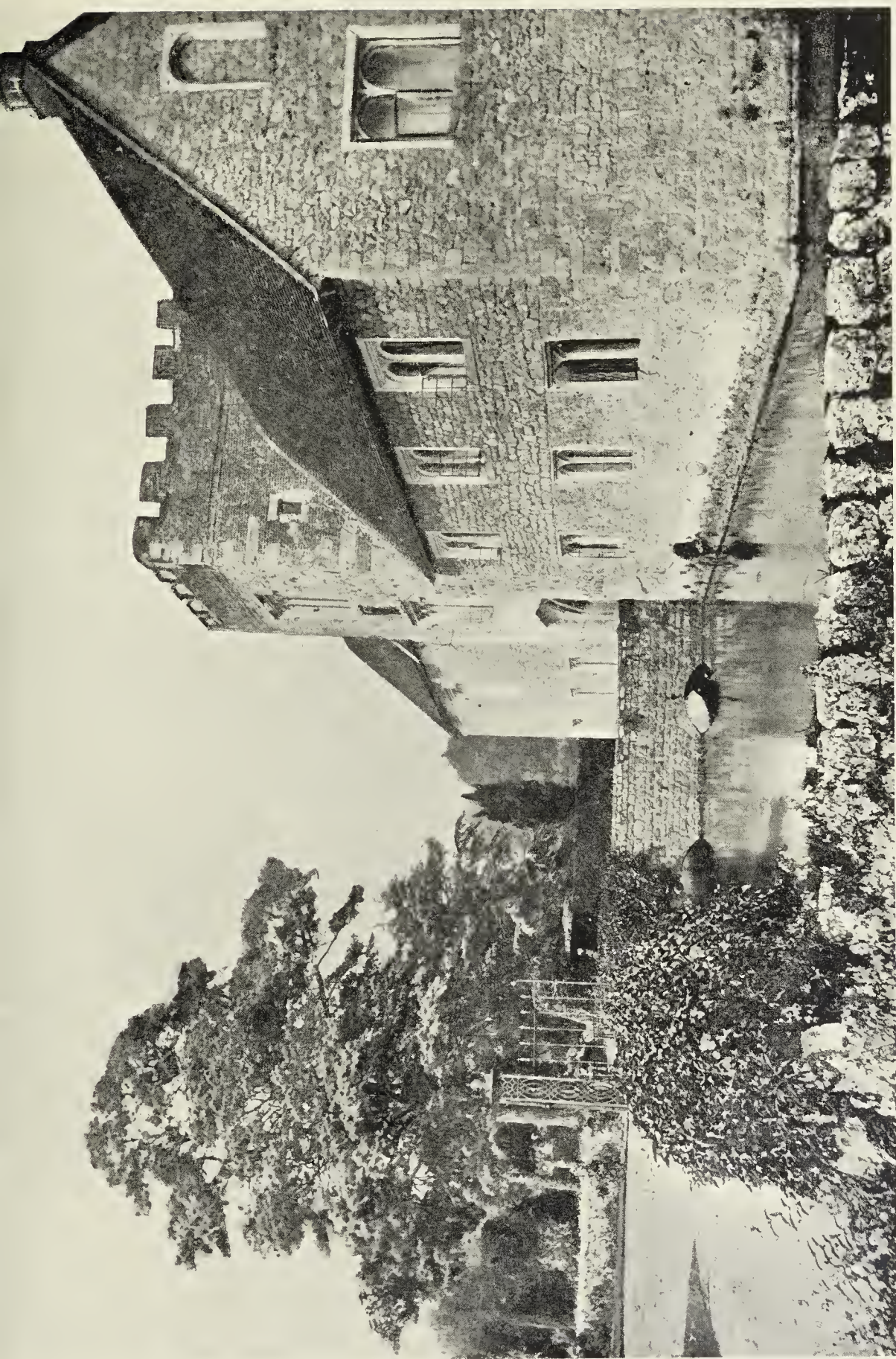
The old chapel was on the left side of the main entrance, the crypt under it leaving walls nearly 4 feet thick. This chapel has been converted into two bedrooms, in the upper of which recent alterations have revealed the existence of a fine open-timbered roof of massive oak beams.

The Tudor chapel is in the north wing of the house; its length is 35 feet and width 16 feet. The roof is fine, and the panelling of the walls, in part, dates back to about 1520.

The drawing-room on the first floor is one of the finest rooms in the house, being 42 feet long and 17 feet 6 inches wide. There we specially noticed the remarkable Jacobean chimney-piece of carved oak, put in by Sir William Selby about 1620. The walls of this room are hung with wonderful Chinese paper over two hundred years old.

The passage leading from the drawing-room to the dining-room and various bedrooms is oak-panelled, the design being in the well-known linen-fold pattern. A good portion of this is original work of the early seventeenth century, but a part is a capital reproduction put in by Mr. Colyer-Fergusson.





IGHTHAM MOTE  
TUDOR GATEWAY ENTRANCE AND MOAT





The house contains much interesting and antique furniture, cabinets, and some good pictures.

The gardens are interesting, and contain some magnificent old trees, enormous hedges, and at the far end a charming wild garden, which should be seen in the late spring. Through this runs a little stream, which, carried under the bowling-green by means of culverts, discharges itself into the moat surrounding the house.

The derivation of the curious name "Ightham" is not very clear. Some authorities consider it is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *eatha*, eight, and *ham*, a home—that is, the "eight homes" from the eight parishes near by. Others consider it is derived from "*eyot*," a small island, from the small island on which the Mote is built, and that the original name was Eyotham.

I add a few of the many forms by which this place has been known, with approximate dates:—

1100.	Ehtcham.	1596.	Ightam.
1254.	Hightham.	1619.	Eightham.
1293.	Eythcham.	1639.	Itcham.
1307.	Eyghtham.	1692.	Igtham.
1313.	Eghtham.	1776.	Eightam.
1552.	Itam.	1869.	Ightham.

It may be of interest to append a list of the various families who have owned Ightham Mote, which has been compiled by Mr. F. J. Bennett, the author of a short history of this district.

A.D.

- 1180. Sir Ivo de Haut.
- 1340. Sir Thomas Cawne, builder of the great hall.
- 1450. Richard de Haut, beheaded at Pontefract in 1483.
- 1483. Sir Robert Brackenbury, killed at the battle of Bosworth.



A.D.

1521. Sir Richard Clement, builder of the chapel.  
1544. Hugh Pakenham. He married a Clement heiress.  
1544. Sir John Allen, Lord Mayor of London.  
1591. Sir William Selby. Dorothy Selby, the wife of the nephew of the first Sir William Selby, is supposed to have revealed the Gunpowder Plot to Lord Mounteagle. The estate remained in the possession of the Selby family for nearly 300 years, and was sold in  
1889 to T. C. Colyer-Fergusson, Esq.

On leaving the Mote the party was driven through some of the lovely surrounding country, round Knole Park and back to The Glebe, Sevenoaks, where tea was provided on the lawn by Mrs. Charles Phillips; afterwards they proceeded to Combe Bank, where the Canadian guests dined with Mr. Mond and his house party, and a return to the hospital was made by the 10.44 p.m. train from Sevenoaks.

## Penshurst



Y kind invitation our party visited Penshurst on August 12th, and after a delightful drive through the Kent Weald, were received on arrival by Lord and Lady De L'Isle and Dudley, who personally conducted the party, not only through the public rooms, but also over the more important of the private rooms. Many of the objects of historical interest were pointed out, and interesting incidents were related about some of them.

The name "Penshurst" is derived from the old British words "Pen," top, and "Hyrst," a wood. In ancient records it is termed Pencestre, "ceaster" being used by the Saxons for "a fortified camp."

The following are the more noted of the early owners of Penshurst :—

Sir Thomas de Pencester held it in 1226, and was succeeded by his son Sir Stephen, who was Constable of Dover Castle and Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. His daughter Alice married Sir John de Pulteney, who built the great hall, and had licence from the king to "embattle his mansion-house of Penshurst." He was four times Mayor of London, and built several London churches. On the female side the estate passed to various families owing to the failure of heirs male, and eventually passed by purchase to John, Duke of Bedford, third son of King Henry IV. He built one wing of the old house. He

acted as Regent in France and was responsible for the execution of the brave Maid of Orleans. He died in 1435, and was succeeded by his brother Humphrey, on whose death, without children, Penshurst reverted to the Crown, and Henry VI granted it to Humphrey de Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, who fell fighting against the Yorkists at the battle of Northampton. It remained with the Stafford family until, by the attainder of Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham in 1521, it again fell to the Crown. In 1551 it was in the possession of John, Earl of Warwick, but soon after it was given by Edward VI to Sir Ralph Fane, but on his execution, as an accomplice of the Protector Somerset, it was, by letters patent, granted to Sir William Sidney, in whose family it has remained ever since.

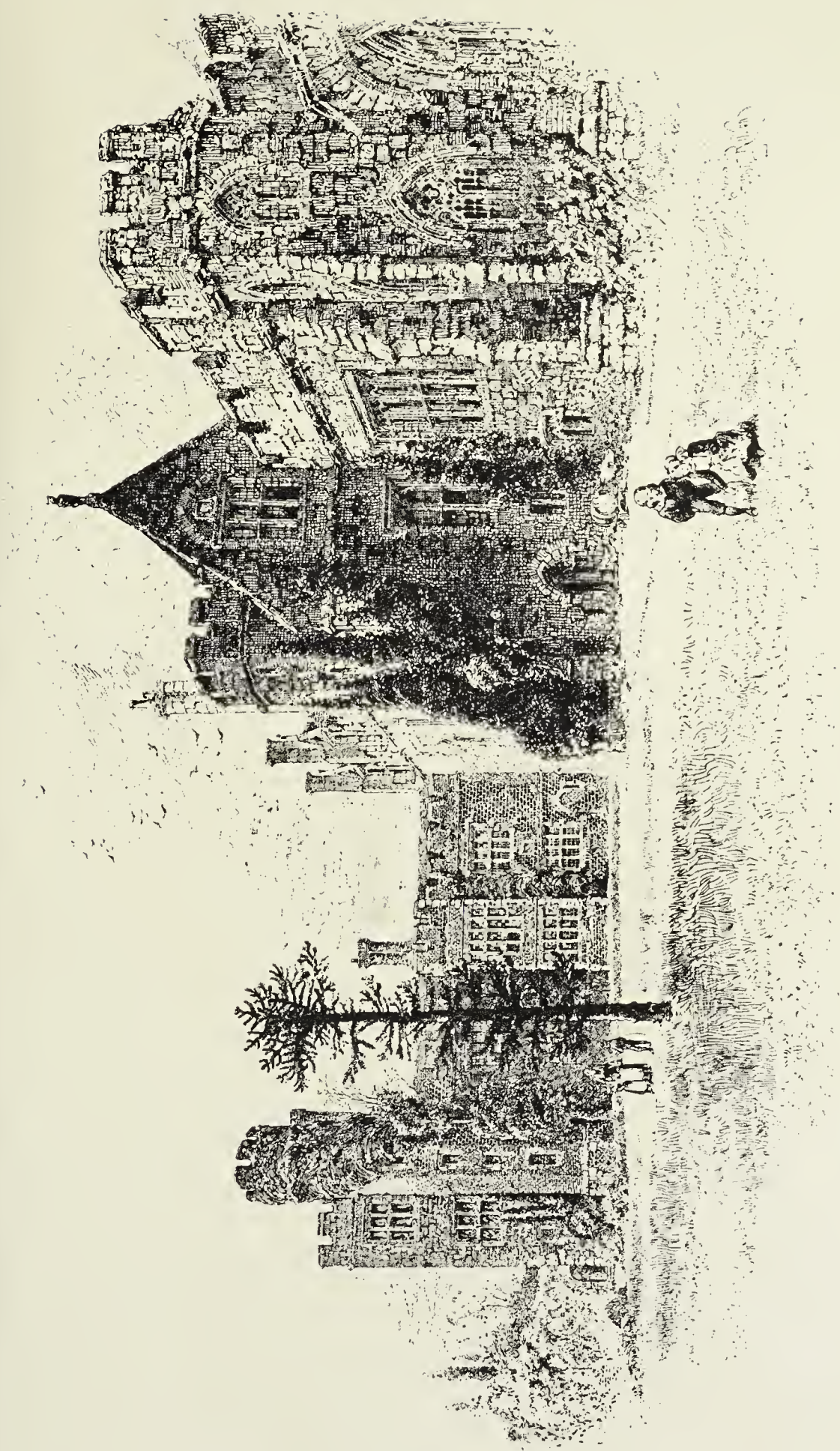
Over the old gateway, through which we passed from the park, there is a stone inscribed as follows:—

“ The most Religious and Renowned Prince Edward the sixth, Kinge  
Of England, France and Ireland, gave this House of Pencester with  
The Mannors, Landes, and Appurtenances thereunto belonginge  
Unto his trustye and welbeloved servaunt Syr William Sydney, Knight  
Banneret, serving him from the tyme of his Birth unto his  
Coronation in the Offices of Chamberlayn and Steward of his  
Household ; in commemoration of which most worthie and famous Kinge  
Sir Henrye Sydney, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter,  
Lord President of the Councill, established in the Marches of  
Wales, Sonne and Heyre to the aforementioned Syr William  
Caused this Tower to be buylded, and that most excellent  
Princes Armes to be erected—Anno Domini, 1585.”

The Sidneys are of Norman extraction, and among them we find men who have filled with integrity and credit almost every public office of responsibility and importance.

Sir Philip Sidney—styled “the Incomparable”—was the best known of the family. He was born in 1554, and died gloriously on the field of Zutphen in 1586. He wrote his





PENSHURST



famous work *Arcadia* at Wilton, the seat of his sister Mary, Countess of Pembroke.

It was of this sister that Ben Jonson wrote the famous epitaph :—

“ Underneath this sable herse,  
Lies the subject of all verse ;  
Sidney’s sister, Pembroke’s mother.  
Death, ere thou hast slain another,  
Learned, wise and good as she,  
Time shall throw a dart at thee.”

Sir Philip was succeeded by his brother Robert, who, in 1605, was created Viscount Lisle, and afterwards Earl of Leicester. He married the famous Welsh heiress, Barbara Gamage. The title Earl of Leicester became extinct on the death of Jocelyn, 7th Earl, who died in 1743 without lawful issue. The estate then fell between co-heiresses, and after long and expensive litigation Penshurst was allotted to the youngest daughter, Elizabeth, who left two daughters ; the elder of these daughters, Elizabeth, married Bysshe Shelley, and their descendant, Philip Charles Sidney, was created a baron of the United Kingdom, as Lord De L’Isle and Dudley, of Penshurst, January 13th, 1835.

Sir Philip Sidney, the present Baron De L’Isle and Dudley, was born in 1853, and married in 1902 the Hon. Elizabeth Maria, daughter of Viscount Gort.

Penshurst ! How many and how glorious are the associations connected with this ancient house !

Penshurst is well placed in a park of about 400 acres, which is bordered by the river Medway. Within the last sixty years it has been most carefully restored, and is now one of the finest mansions in Kent, but in olden days was even larger than at present.

Passing under the gateway tower we come to the



entrance porch and note a very old wrought-iron knocker with the initials R. S. and B. S. standing for Robert and Barbara Sidney. We pass through the court-yard and are received in the great hall by Lord and Lady De L'Isle, who at once proceed to show us the treasures of Penshurst.

The hall was built in 1341 and is considered the best specimen of an old baronial hall in the kingdom. It is 54 ft. long, 38 ft. wide, and 60 ft. high. In the centre are the original fire-dogs on the old hearth on which great logs of timber were burnt, the smoke ascending to the top of the hall and passing out by means of an open smoke-louvre in the roof, which has now been closed up. The roof is supported on ten corbels in the shape of grotesque human figures. On either side of the hall are the ancient tables which are supposed to be over five hundred years old. Here also is the old spit on which even large animals were roasted whole. On the walls are brackets to hold the torches with which the hall was lighted. The walls are hung with armour, and at one end is the wainscot screen supporting the minstrels' gallery. The lower part of this is of the fourteenth century, but the upper part is of later date.

We next proceed to the ballroom, which was restored about 1875. The three chandeliers of cut glass, surmounted with the royal crown, were the first made in England, and were presented to Sir Henry Sidney by Queen Elizabeth.

In this room there is a secret spy-hole enabling the owner to keep watch over his retainers in the great hall, after he had left them.

The pictures are nearly all of members of the Sidney family, but there is a fine painting of William III and his Queen, by G. Kneller.



PENSHURST

MAIN ENTRANCE FROM THE PARK





We next pass to Queen Elizabeth's room, which she used when at Penshurst. The walls are covered with finely worked silk. The chairs are of her time, high-backed and covered with yellow embroidered satin. The needlework in silk, inlaid on the card-table, was worked by the Queen's own hands. There is also a magnificent ebony Dutch cabinet presented by James I to Robert Sidney.

Two of the finest pictures at Penshurst are in this room, the one of Sir Philip Sidney and his brother Robert when boys, standing arm in arm and dressed in court costume, the other of Barbara Gamage, the Welsh heiress, wife of Robert Sidney, with her six children in the very quaint dress of their period. Over the door is a picture of Prince Rupert, who lay concealed here in the latter part of the Civil War.

The tapestry room is covered on three sides with Gobelin tapestry, the subjects represented being "Æolus unbarring the Cave of the Winds," "The Triumph of Ceres," and a marriage scene. Here is a black marble table, inlaid with the Sidney arms with ninety-five quarterings; also another fine cabinet of the seventeenth century with brass figures and painted panels.

The picture gallery is 90 ft. long, and contains some fine tables, chairs, and old clocks, a sixteenth-century spinet, and two more really superb Dutch cabinets, one of which has secret panels concealing fine paintings of the Dutch school. The pictures are largely those of members of the family, including one by Holbein and two by A. Van Dyke. Here is the celebrated picture of Queen Elizabeth dancing with her favourite, the Earl of Leicester. The Earl is portrayed balancing himself on one leg, while he grasps the Queen with both hands round her waist, and holds her up in mid-air!

The private rooms were then visited, and Lord De L'Isle pointed out many pieces of famous armour and arms, among them the sword of the 1st Earl of Leicester, which, under the sumptuary laws of Elizabeth, had to be shortened.

The ceiling of his lordship's study was very much admired, as well as many objects of historical interest which cannot be enumerated in the space at our disposal.

Tea was served on the inner terrace facing the gardens, after which Lord De L'Isle took us round the grounds, in which the magnificent yew hedges were specially admired. A visit was also paid to the church to see the Sidney tombs and monuments.

The party left about 6.30 p.m. after a most enjoyable afternoon spent in perfect surroundings.



## Montreal



ON August 19th our party had the honour of being received by Lord and Lady Amherst at Montreal, the ancestral home of the great General Sir Jeffery Amherst. This visit was of special interest to the Canadians, as it is due to the splendid military stratagem planned and carried out by General Amherst, we are largely indebted for the fact that the Dominion of Canada is now under British sovereignty, and therefore it is largely owing to his genius that the Old Country has had such great help in men and munitions (to say nothing of doctors and nurses) as it has had so generously during the present war.

Montreal is situate in a fine park of several hundred acres, in the parish of Riverhead, about three-quarters of a mile from Sevenoaks.

The earlier house on this estate was called Brook's Place. It was chiefly built from the ruins of the hospital of St. John near the Dartford Road, Sevenoaks, which was suppressed in the reign of Henry VIII. Lord Amherst showed us several remains of this old home in the vegetable gardens near the Riverhead boundary of the park.

Montreal itself was built, in commemoration of his glorious successes in America, by Sir Jeffery Amherst. The park is well laid out, commanding views of the chalk hills to the north and east, it has also the advantage of a fine spring of water used to feed a series of small lakes. The fine

cedar trees near the house are very noteworthy, and a quaint shell grotto in the rockery was examined with interest.

In the grounds of Montreal there is a fine obelisk commemorating the victories of General Amherst and his two brothers, who had also distinguished themselves in the service of their country. John Amherst, an Admiral of the Blue, died in 1778, and William Amherst, a Lieutenant-General in the Army, died in 1781.

The inscriptions on this obelisk are quite historical and seem worth repeating :—

“To commemorate the providential and happy meeting of three brothers, on the 25th of January, 1794, after six years’ glorious war, in which the three were successfully engaged.”

On another side is as follows :—

“Dedicated to that most able statesman during whose administration Cape Breton and Canada were conquered, and from whose influence the British arms derived a degree of lustre unparalleled in past ages.”

The following record of victories are also inscribed upon it :—

“Louisbourg surrendered, and six French battalions prisoners of war, 26th July, 1758.

Niagara surrendered, 25th July, 1759.

Ticonderoga taken possession of, 26th July, 1756.

Crown Point taken possession of, 4th August, 1759.

Quebec capitulated, 17th September, 1759.

Fort Levi surrendered, 25th August, 1760.

Isle de Noix abandoned, 28th August, 1760.

Montreal surrendered, and with it all Canada, and ten French battalions layed down their arms, 8th September, 1760.





MONTREAL  
MAIN ENTRANCE





St. John's, Newfoundland, retaken, 18th September, 1762."

Field-Marshal Sir Jeffery Amherst was Commander of His Majesty's Forces in North America from 1758-64, and was created Baron Amherst of Holmesdale in 1776.

Having distinguished himself in the Seven Years' War by the capture of Louisbourg in 1758 and in saving Quebec from the besieging forces of the enemy in 1760, General Amherst turned his attention to the capture of Montreal, which was to be his *coup d'état* for the entire conquest of Canada by the English. He directed General Murray to advance from Quebec, and he himself with 10,000 men sailed down the St. Lawrence, commenced his attack on Montreal and compelled the French to capitulate. In 1778 he was appointed Commander of His Majesty's Land Forces in Great Britain and became Field-Marshal in 1796, and died the following year at his newly built mansion at Montreal.

The earliest records we have of this family is in 1215 when we find a Gilbertus de Hemmehurst. Later on the name became Hemhurst and Emhurst and about the time of Edward III it was commonly written Amherst, the family being then at Pembury, near Tunbridge Wells.

In addition to the usual pictures and family treasures Montreal contains two distinct and highly interesting collections.

The one formed by Sir Jeffery Amherst consists of antiquities of Canada and of the Red Indians, including many curious weapons, carvings, stones, etc.

The other and more important, is that gathered together by William Pitt, 1st Earl Amherst, who was at one time Ambassador to China, and subsequently Governor-General of India, and who brought home many valuable and interesting objects from these countries. These were pointed



out and explained by Lord Amherst, but unfortunately I have no catalogue of them, so am unable to do more than thus briefly note what we saw.

The family pictures are very numerous, and many are by the most famous masters.

Tea was served to the party at two large tables in the great dining-room, after which Lord and Lady Amherst showed the visitors over the park and gardens, and pointed out the chief features of interest.

## Allington Castle



Y kind permission of Sir Martin and Lady Conway a party from the Canadian hospital visited Allington Castle on August 25th.

The drive by motors was from Sevenoaks station, via Seal and Wrotham, about sixteen miles in all.

On arrival the party was received by our kind host and hostess and was conducted over the whole castle and grounds.

The castle is on the bank of the river Medway, and lies so as to command what was an important ford over the river in ancient times. It is about two miles from Maidstone.

In Domesday it is spelt "Elentun," and in the Middle Ages was called "Alynton," and only in relatively later years took its present name.

The first record we have of Allington (*vide* article in the *Archæologia Cantiana*, vol. xxix., by Miss Agnes Conway) is in the Domesday Survey of 1086, when Alnod Cilt, a great Kentish thane, held Elentun. Later on it is found in the possession of Ansfrid, Sheriff of Kent.

The first mention of a building at Allington is in 1174, in the reign of Henry II, when a castle is mentioned, but this castle was destroyed, with many others, in the same reign.

Allington soon after passed into the possession of the celebrated family of de Longchamp, as Avelina, the heiress

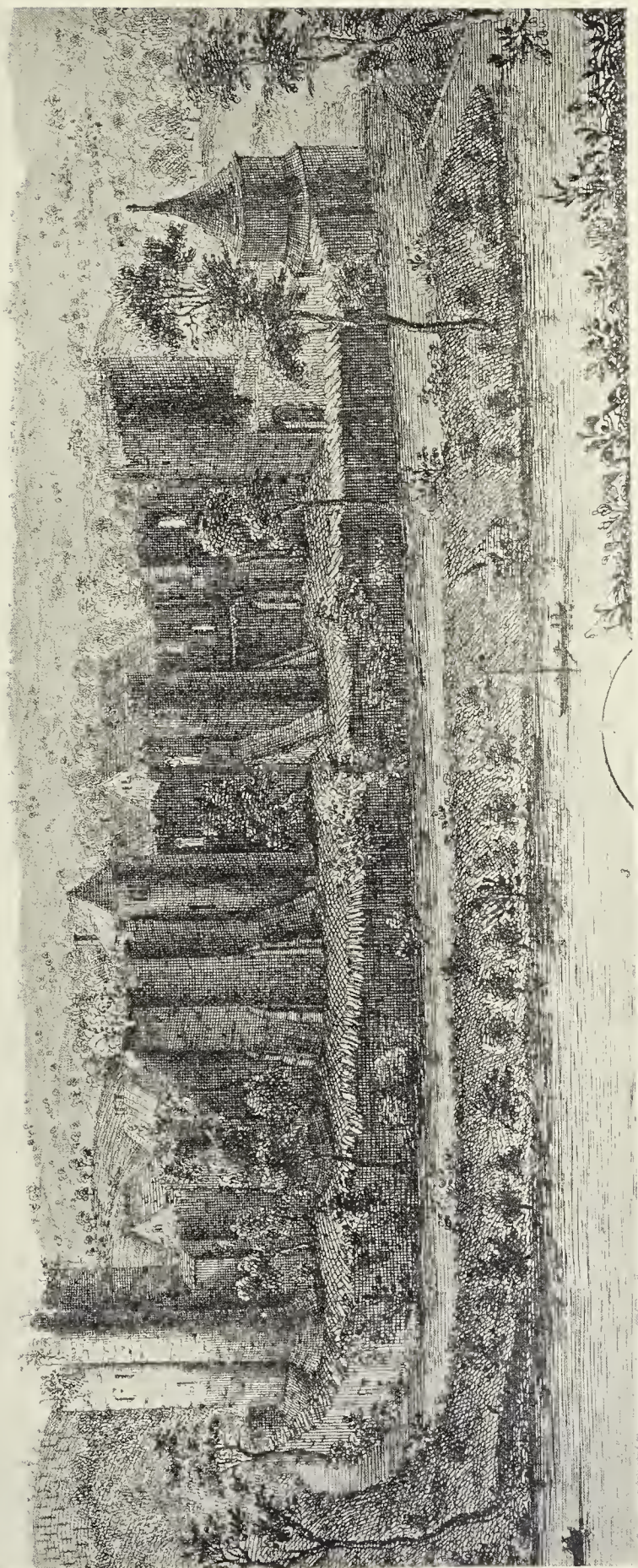
of Allington, married Osbert de Longchamp, son of William de Longchamp, who under Richard I was Papal Legate, Chancellor and Justiciar all in one. A manor-house was then built to take the place of the destroyed castle, and of this, Sir Martin has found considerable remains. Some of the walls are two feet thick. The gate-house of this manor-house was altered in 1282, and several of the original arrow slits in it can still be seen. From the de Longchamps Allington passed to the celebrated owner of Penshurst, as in 1281 we find that Allington was in possession of Stephen of Penchester (*see article on Penshurst*), as he obtained licence from Edward I to fortify and embattle this mansion-house. He made extensive additions to the house, and probably built Solomon's Tower, the existing bridge, and the ruined barbican before it.

The next owners were the Cobhams, who obtained it in 1308, after marriage with a daughter of Stephen de Penchester. They were in possession up to 1380, but after that, for over one hundred years, there comes an absolute blank in the history of Allington Castle.

The next owner of which we have record is Jane Moresby, in or about 1475. In 1492 the castle was sold to Sir Henry Wyatt. The work done by the Wyatts at Allington was considerable: old Early English windows were knocked out and larger Tudor windows inserted, a porch was added before the entrance to the banqueting-hall, with a lady's bower above it; a new building was erected, cutting the court-yard into two, the ground floor being offices, the first floor a long gallery, and the chief rooms were panelled.

Sir Thomas Wyatt was born at Allington in 1503. He was a poet, statesman, and a lover of Anne Boleyn. He died in 1542, and was succeeded by his son, also a





ALLINGTON CASTLE





Sir Thomas Wyatt, who raised Kent in insurrection to prevent the marriage of Queen Mary with Philip of Spain. He was executed for high treason in 1554 and Allington reverted to the Crown.

During the time of the Wyatts the castle was visited by Henry VII, and several times by Henry VIII. In October, 1544, Queen Catherine Parr dined here and 7s. 4d. is charged in her accounts for making her dinner ready.

In 1568 Queen Elizabeth granted Allington to the "master of her jewels," John Astley.

In the seventeenth century it was for many years in possession of the Bests, the castle henceforward being practically nothing but a large house for a gentleman farmer. After the Bests it was for many years in the hands of various farmers, and in 1905 was purchased by Sir Martin Conway.

The last ten years have been devoted to a careful study of the ancient buildings and to a thorough restoration, with the aim always in view of preserving all the historical features that can be retained, and at the same time of making the place a comfortable residence.

How well Sir Martin has succeeded in his ideas was seen by his Canadian guests when he and his daughter, Miss Agnes Conway, most kindly showed the castle from basement to battlements.

The objects of interest were many, the varying views from the battlements, Solomon's Tower, the ruins of the great hall and of the chapel, which will probably be restored when the war is over, the living rooms with their many objects of interest gathered in out-of-the-way parts of the world, the gardens and the moat, were all thoroughly inspected and enjoyed.

Tea was served in what was formerly known as the

Penchester Lodgings, which date back over six hundred years.

After tea a very pleasant walk was taken through the woods, with many winding paths leading up to fine view points. Our Canadian friends were interested in a Canadian lumber hut that had been built in a wild spot in the wood.

Our host, Sir Martin Conway, Kt., is a celebrated traveller and mountaineer. In the Himalayas he has climbed a peak 23,000 feet high and has surveyed 2000 miles of mountains. In 1896-7 he explored the interior of Spitsbergen, in 1898 explored the Bolivian Andes and ascended Aconcagua, 23,080 feet, and has also explored the glaciers of Tierra del Fuego. He was the Slade Professor of Fine Arts, Cambridge, 1901-4, President of the Alpine Club, 1902-4, and has published many works on Arts, Climbing and Travelling. He married in 1884 Katrina, daughter of Charles Lambard, Esq., of Augusta, Maine, U.S.A.

About 6.30 p.m. we all left Allington with the memory of a happy afternoon spent with kind friends and in charming surroundings.

We motored back via Sevenoaks to Combe Bank, and there the party dined and spent the evening, leaving Sevenoaks soon after 10.30 p.m. for Orpington.

## Quebec House



ON September 2nd our party was invited by the Hon. Mrs. Warde to visit Squerries Court at Westerham, and on the way there a stop was made at Quebec House, to visit the home of General Wolfe.

Unfortunately the house was undergoing alterations, and several of the rooms had been cleared out, but we were kindly allowed to see over the house.

In older days Quebec House<sup>1</sup> was known as Spiers and was owned by Thomas Ellison, the steward of the manor of Westerham.

Quebec House has been immortalized by Thackeray in *The Virginians*. He has drawn us Colonel Lambert and Harry Warrington riding into Westerham in Wolfe's manhood days, their arrival at Quebec House, and their welcome by their hosts.

James Wolfe was born at Westerham in 1727, on December 22nd (old style), but not in Quebec House itself, but in the vicarage which is near by. In his youthful days he formed a friendship for George Warde of Squerries which lasted through life. He was educated at the Westerham school, until his father, Colonel Wolfe, gave up Quebec House in 1738 and went to live in Greenwich, where James Wolfe had for a schoolfellow the afterwards famous

<sup>1</sup> For many of these details I am indebted to *The Birthplace of Wolfe*, published by Hooker Bros., Westerham, and to The Homeland Handbook on Westerham.



Lord St. Vincent. At Christmas, 1741, James Wolfe received his first commission, and in 1742 he carried the colours in Duroure's famous Twelfth Regiment of Foot.

At the battle of Dettingen in 1743, he had his first baptism of fire; shortly afterwards he was in the campaign against Prince Charles Edward, and also fought at Falkirk and at Culloden. The following year he was in Flanders and was wounded at Lauffeld, after this he returned home and celebrated his twenty-first birthday.

He was then stationed in Ireland, in Scotland, and various parts of England, and took part in the expedition against La Rochelle, and soon afterwards was moved to Canada.

In the attack on the great naval station of Louisbourg, Admiral Boscawen was in command of the fleet, Lord Amherst of the army, and Wolfe went with the latter as one of his three brigadiers. After this he returned to England and was taking the waters at Bath when Pitt summoned him to London to receive command of what proved to be his last expedition.

By June, 1759, the fleet arrived at the Isle of Orleans, in the mouth of the St. Lawrence. Quebec, one of the strongest fortresses in the world, lay some four miles up the river.

On September 13th, 1759, Wolfe had less than 4000 men left, but with this inadequate force scaled the cliffs to the Plains of Abraham and took Quebec, and here he lost his life at the moment of victory.

Many interesting pictures were seen at Quebec House, both of members of his family, views of Quebec, and other places in Canada.



*Reproduced from photo by permission of Mr. W. T. Williams, Westerham*

## QUEBEC HOUSE





## Squerryes Court



FROM Quebec House we drove through West-  
ham to Squerryes Court, the seat of the Hon.  
Mrs. Warde, widow of the late Lieut.-Colonel  
Charles A. Madan Warde, and daughter of  
Sir Lucius O'Brien, 13th Baron Inchiquin, who deduces  
his descent from the royal line of Thomond, long before the  
time of the Norman Conquest.

In the time of Henry III, Squerryes was the seat of the  
de Squeriè family. It passed by marriage with a female  
descendant of this family to Sir William Cromer, who was  
Mayor of London in 1413, and their son, also a Sir William  
Cromer, married a daughter of James Fiennes, Lord Saye  
and Sele, then of Knole, both of whom fell victims in the  
Kentish insurrection of Jack Cade in 1450.

In quick succession it was held by Sir Thomas  
Cawarden and Michael Beresford, the latter sold it to  
Sir George Strood.

In 1650, it was in the possession of Thomas Lambert, the  
Parliamentary General, who in 1654, sold to Sir William  
Leech, who was High Sheriff of Kent in 1667, and whose  
son John Leech sold it to Sir Nicholas Crisp.

This Sir Nicholas was the builder of the present house  
about 1685. About 1700 his son, Sir John Crisp, sold the  
estate to Edward, 1st Earl of Jersey, Lord Chamberlain to  
William III. His grandson, William, 3rd Earl of Jersey,  
sold the estate in 1731 to John Warde, Esq., and since then  
it has remained with this family.



Wolfe was with his friend George Warde in the garden at Squerryes when he received a packet containing his first commission, and at the end of a high terrace at the south of the house a pedestal has been erected as a tribute to his memory. Around its base are the following lines:

“ Here first was Wolfe with martial ardour fired,  
 Here first with glory’s brightest flame inspired ;  
 This spot so sacred will for ever claim  
 A proud alliance with its hero’s name.”

Mrs. Warde and her daughter very kindly showed the party all over the house, and many fine and interesting pictures were noted, among them being

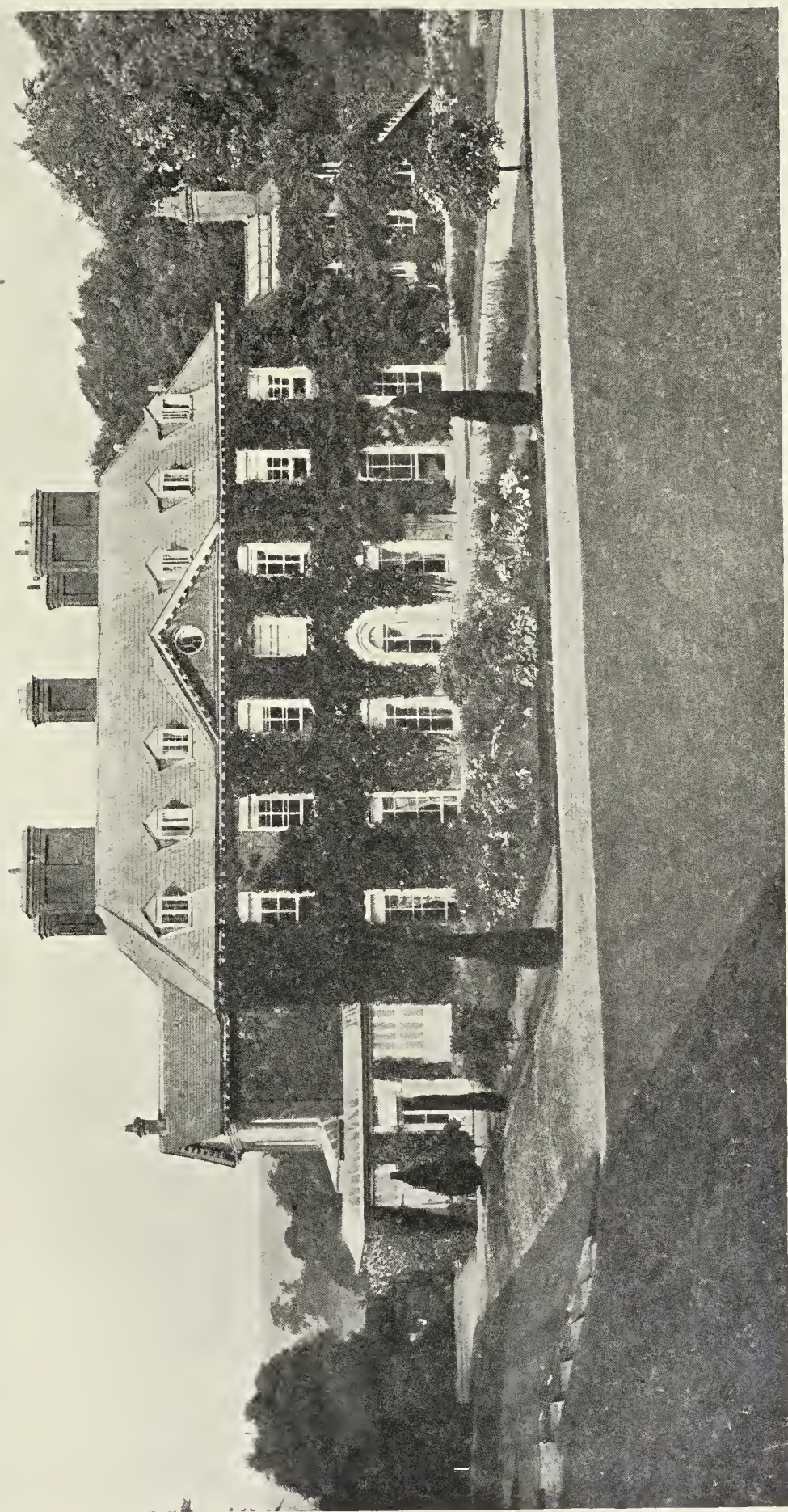
<i>St. Sebastian</i> , and <i>A Study of a Head</i> ,	by Sir A. Vandyke.
<i>Head of Socrates</i> . . . . .	„ Rembrandt.
<i>Man with a Wineglass</i> . . . . .	„ Teniers.
<i>Boy Blowing Bubbles</i> . . . . .	„ Watteau.
<i>Mrs. Gregory</i> . . . . .	„ Romney.
<i>Christ with the Woman of Samaria</i> <i>at the Well</i> . . . . .	„ Paulo Veronese.
Three landscapes . . . . .	„ Salvator Rosa.
Two landscapes . . . . .	„ Ruysdael.

and among other famous painters that are represented are—Poussin, Guido Reni, Franz Hals, Hemskerk, Ben West.

Many fine panels of tapestry were also seen, also a fine collection of old china and much furniture of the period of Queen Anne.

Tea was served in the hall, after which an inspection was made of the beautiful and well laid out grounds, and some of the party walked up to the high ground some distance from the house to the site of the ancient British *Oppidum*, or earthworks fortress.





*From photo by permission of Mr. W. T. Williams, Westerham*

## SQUERRYES COURT

GARDEN FRONT





## Lullingstone Castle



Y kind invitation of Sir William and Lady Emily Hart Dyke our party spent a most pleasant afternoon at their historic seat on September 9th last.

Lullingstone Castle stands in a fine park which lies in a valley of the river Darent, having the chalk hills on the east and west. It adjoins Eynsford, and is about six miles from Sevenoaks.

At the time of the Conquest it was held by Godfrey de Ros, and in the time of Edward I it had passed to Gregory de Rokesle, Mayor of London; from this family it passed to Sir John Peche, whose descendant, Elizabeth Peche, married John Hart, Esq., and in their descendants the estates still remain.

Percival Hart was Sheriff of Kent in 1707, and left an only daughter, Anne, whose second husband was Sir Thomas Dyke, Bart., and for the last two hundred years the compound name Hart-Dyke has been the cognomen of the family.

The first Lullingstone Castle is believed to have been at Shoreham, and the older parts of the present building probably date from the fifteenth century.

This family has been for many generations highly esteemed by their sovereigns, and many of the members have held important positions.

Sir John Peche was Constable of Dover Castle and Warden of the Cinque Ports, also Lord-Deputy of Calais.

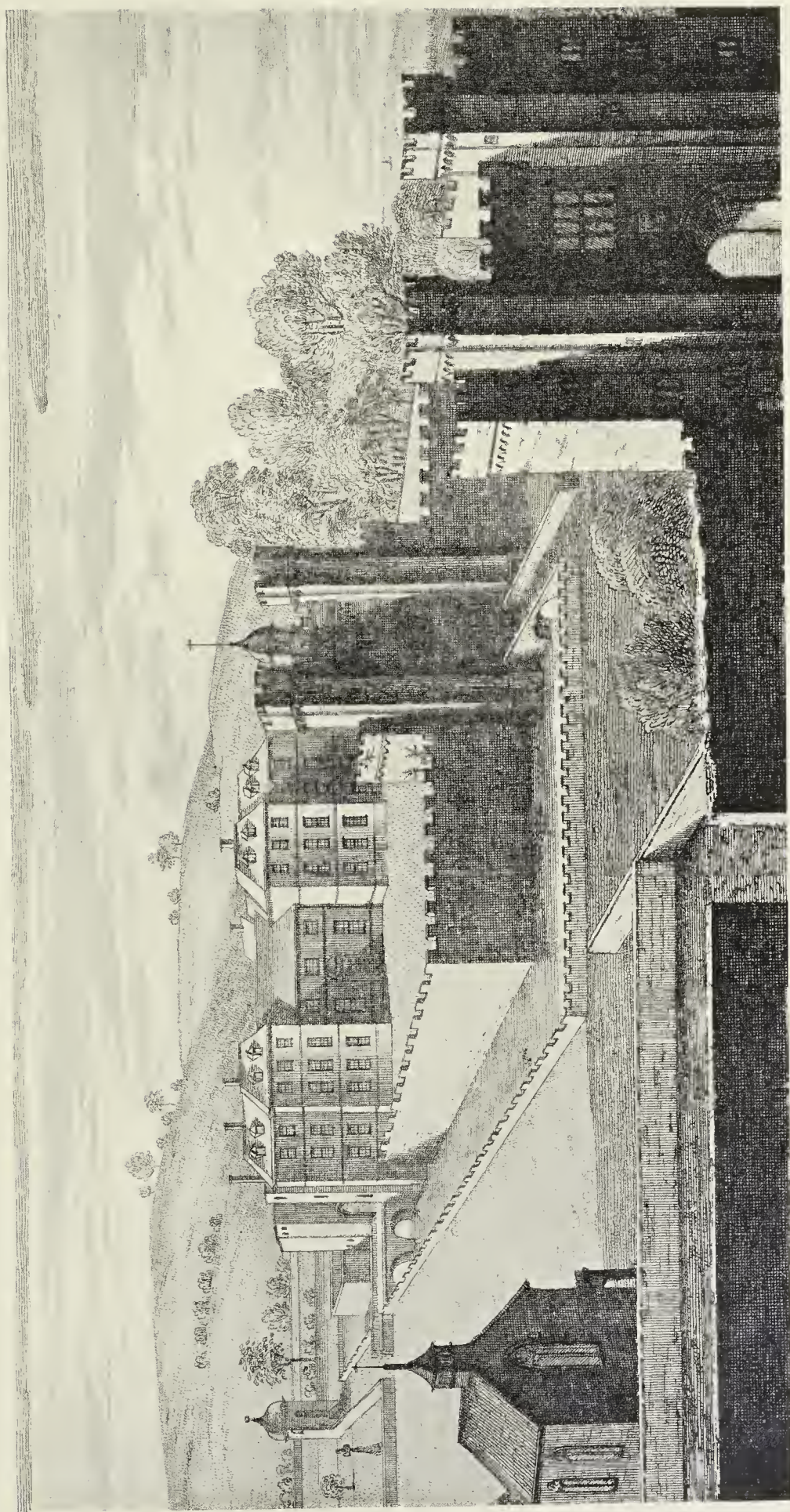


Sir Percyvall Hart was Knight Harbinger to Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth, and the latter Queen was entertained by him in July, 1573, at another mansion he held in Orpington, which she christened Bark Hart, in memory of a water pageant on the river Cray, prepared by Sir Percyvall in her honour. Two years later a triptych, with portraits of Sir Percyvall and his two sons, was painted, and this we had pointed out to us, by Sir William, in the hall of the castle. The silver-hilted dagger depicted in his girdle in this triptych is still shown at Lullingstone—its hilt contains a knife and fork.

The second Sir Percyvall Hart was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1601. The third Sir Percyvall twice represented Kent in Parliament, and received a visit here from Queen Anne. The bedroom, with the furniture used by Her Majesty, is still preserved, and was shown to our party. There is a fine full-length portrait of that Queen in the state drawing-room.

After a thorough inspection of the castle with its valuable pictures and furniture, tea was served in the dining-room, and after this kind hospitality a move was made to the very old and interesting family church of St. Botolph, which is only a stone's-throw from the castle entrance. This is a Norman church much restored in the reign of Edward III; the fine fifteenth-century glass in the windows was much admired.

The carving on the rood-screen includes the pomegranate badge of Katherine of Aragon, and also peach-stones, which symbolize the donor's name. By a quaint conceit the carver cut the letter "é" upon each peach-stone, thus suggesting the word "peché," the sound of which resembles that of the family name of Peche (pronounced Peachez).



LULLINGSTONE CASTLE

*Circa 1800*





Some of the tombs in the church are magnificent, notably one in memory of Sir John Peche, which occupies the space north of the communion-table.

South of the communion-table is a large emblazoned monument to the memory of Sir Percyvall Hart and his wife Frideswide. He was the first of the Hart family who resided here.

In the north chapel there are full-length effigies of Sir George Hart and his wife Elizabeth represented as each one clasping the hand of the other.

A memorial is here to Sir John Dixon Dyke, who died in 1810. He disliked passing over a bridge every time he entered or left his house, so he pulled down the handsome inner gateway of Lullingstone Castle and filled up the moat. The illustration shows the castle before the inner gateway was removed and the moat filled up.

The monuments of this church show us memorials of the history of one family which for nearly five and a half centuries have been seated here.

After leaving the church we visited the lake, with its fine waterfall, the gardens, and the columbarium, which is believed to be one of the oldest dovecots in the kingdom.

Afterwards Sir William kindly took a number of the party for a most enjoyable walk through the fine park. The great oaks on the high ground were much admired, many of them date back to the time of Henry VII, and several trunks are over thirty feet in circumference.

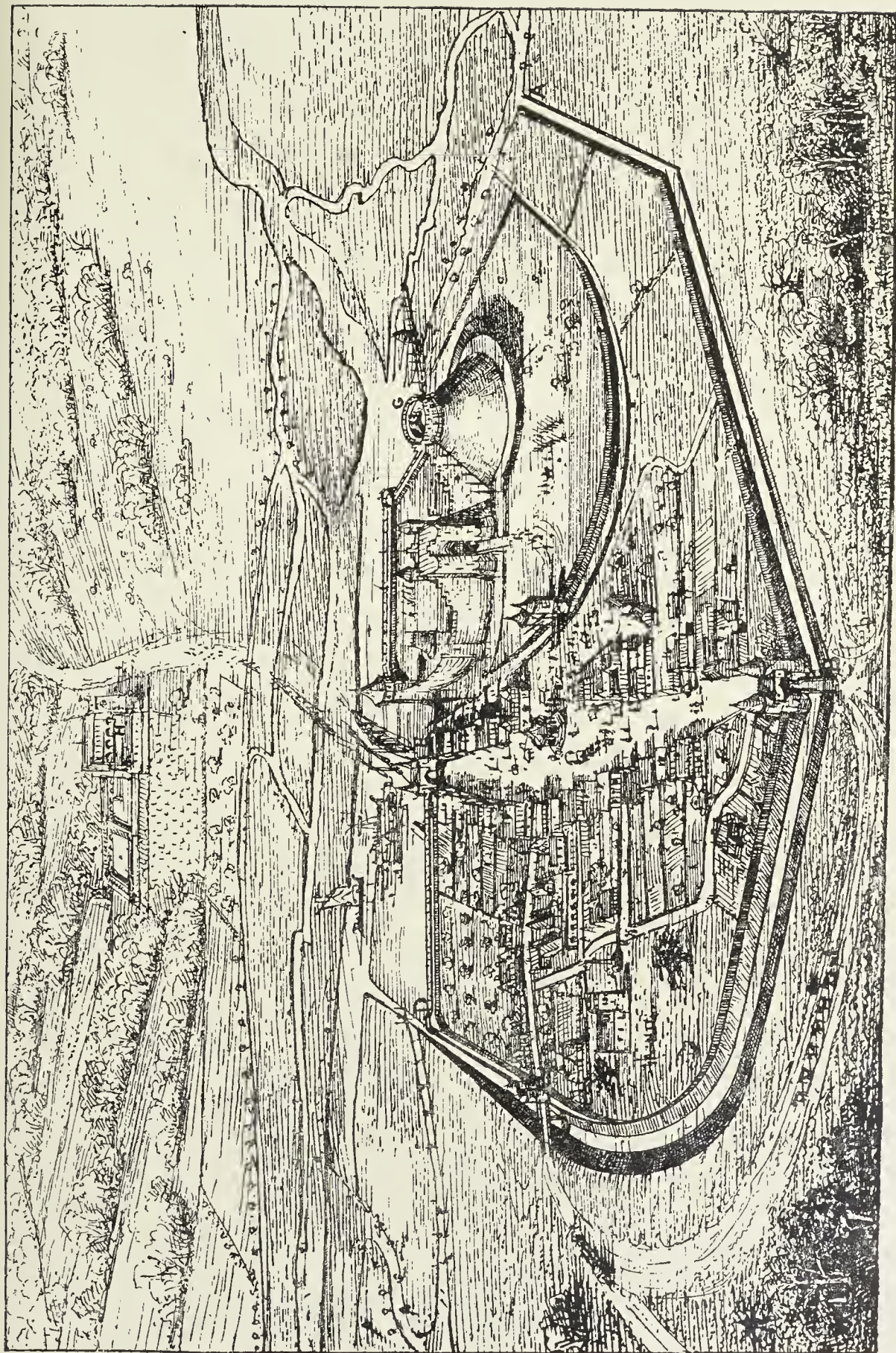
An interesting fact, as showing the ancient settlements in this part of Kent, is that in 1860 some labourers, digging for brick earth close to the north of the park, discovered several objects from both Roman and Jutish interments.

Amongst these was a copper bowl decorated with ornamental work, bearing traces of a dull red enamel. It has



been suggested that the design on this bowl was copied from the Byzantine coins. This is still at Lullingstone Castle.

Sir William Hart Dyke, P.C., etc., represented Kent in Parliament for many years. He was Joint Secretary of the Treasury 1874-80, Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland 1885-6, Vice-President of the Committee of the Council of Education 1887-92. He married in 1870 Lady Emily Montagu, daughter of the 7th Earl of Sandwich.



## TONBRIDGE

CASTLE AND TOWN, *circa* 1230





## Tonbridge Castle



ON September 23rd we had no invitation to any private house, so we decided to take our Canadian friends for a good motor run through the Weald of Kent, and to visit a few points of interest *en route*.

We left Sevenoaks station soon after three o'clock in five cars, and drove six and a half miles to Tonbridge Castle, which was inspected from the dungeon vaults to the battlements, from which a superb view was obtained over the surrounding country.

The name Tonbridge is derived from the Saxon words *ton* a town, and *burig* a fort, the great mound by the side of the castle wall being the remains of the original British fort constructed on the north side of the river. This mound is about 267 yards in circumference and 65 feet high.

At the time of the Domesday survey, in 1086, Tonbridge Castle was held by Richard de Clare, also known as Richard of Tonbridge. At this time the great earth mound was crowned with a substantial stone fortress, and about two acres of ground was enclosed near-by with a stockade, fosse, and rampart.

Soon after William Rufus succeeded to the throne a great dispute arose between him and his brother Robert.

Some of Robert's friends held Tonbridge, which William Rufus at once besieged and took in two days.



The de Clares held Tonbridge until the time of King John, who seized it in December, 1215. After the death of John it was restored to the rightful heirs, who had by now been created Earls of Gloucester.

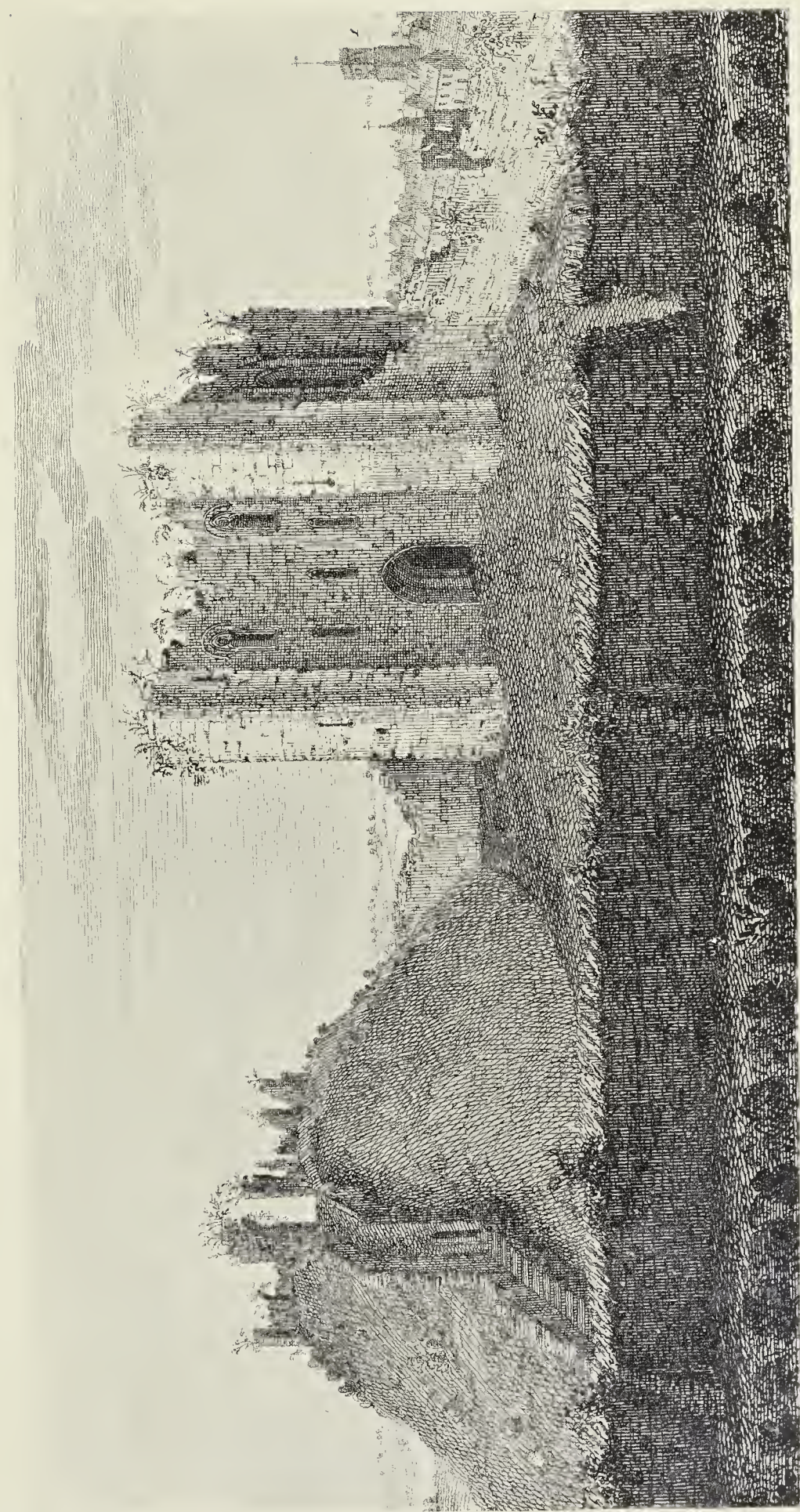
About 1230 extensive additions were made to the castle, which was converted into a Norman fortress, and one of the illustrations shows a rough bird's-eye view of the castle, mound, and town a few years later. The gateway in the foreground is the north end with the road to Sevenoaks, and in the background up the hill is the road to Tunbridge Wells, with Tonbridge Priory on the left, upon the site of which the present station now stands.<sup>1</sup>

In 1264 the Earl of Gloucester refused to swear allegiance to the Black Prince, and King Henry III captured his castle of Tonbridge, and with it Alicia, his countess. Later on, however, at the battle of Lewes, matters were reversed, for there Gloucester captured the King. Afterwards he joined the King's party, and proved himself very loyal to Edward I, who with his Queen were entertained for several days at this castle. In April, 1290, the Earl of Gloucester married, as his second wife, Princess Joanna, daughter of Edward I. He died in 1295.

The castle remained in the hands of the Earls of Gloucester for a considerable period, but about 1500 we find it in possession of Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, who, in 1520, was impeached for treason and executed. The chief accuser against him was a discharged steward named Charles Knevet. The accusation is accurately given by Shakespeare [Henry VIII, Act 1, Scene 2], when the

<sup>1</sup> This sketch is by Mr. J. F. Wadmore, the author of a paper in the *Arch. Cant.* on "Tonbridge Castle and its Lords."





TONBRIDGE CASTLE AND MOUND





King tells him to speak freely, and Knevet thereupon says :

“ First, it was usual with him, every day  
It would infect his speech, that if the King  
Should without issue die, he'd carry it so  
To make the sceptre his : these very words  
I've heard him utter to his son-in-law,  
Lord Aberga'ny.” . . . . .

Tonbridge Castle now escheated to the Crown, and remained with it during Henry VIII's reign.

Sir Thomas Boleyn, brother of the Queen, Ann Boleyn, had an allowance from the Crown to repair the bridge and castle of Tonbridge. A letter about the cost of this is dated from Hever, August 8th, 1525.

In the reign of Edward VI, John Dudley, afterwards Duke of Northumberland, received a grant of the castle and manor of Tonbridge. After his death they were granted to Cardinal Pole, and on his death Elizabeth bestowed them upon Henry Carey, Baron Hunsdon, whose portrait may be seen at Knole.

After this the castle passed through the hands of numerous persons of less importance until it came to Thomas Hooker, who, in 1793, dismantled the castle and used the material to build another residence.

The manor passed into the possession of the Baron Stafford, and the castle was sold to the town of Tonbridge, and has been fitted up as a show place and museum.

## TUNBRIDGE WELLS

After leaving Tonbridge Castle we motored on six miles further to Tunbridge Wells, and allowed about half an hour for an inspection of the famous Pantiles.

Tunbridge Wells was practically *discovered* by Dudley,



3rd Lord North, in 1606. While in this district for his health, he passed through a wood and observed some water, on the surface of which floated a shining mineral scum. He stopped three months at Eridge House taking this water daily, and became a stouter, stronger, healthier man than ever. On his return to London he promulgated his discovery, and was aided by Lord Abergavenny, on the borders of whose estate the water had its rise.

In 1650 Tunbridge Wells had become a fashionable resort, especially in July and August. A great impetus was given to it by Henrietta Maria, Queen of Charles I, who spent six weeks here in 1630, after the birth of her son, Prince Charles.

The view shown in our illustration is of the Pantiles in 1748, and a number of well-known characters are included that were then visiting the Wells. These are numbered underneath, and from the left hand are as follows :

No.

1. Dr. Samuel Johnson, the lexicographer.
2. Dr. John Gilbert, Bishop of Salisbury.
3. Simon, 1st Earl Harcourt.
4. Colley Cibber, actor and dramatist.
5. David Garrick, actor.
6. Mrs. Frasi, the singer.
7. Richard Nash, commonly called Beau Nash, "King of Bath."
8. Miss Chudleigh, afterward Duchess of Kingston.
9. William Pitt, Earl of Chatham.
10. Arthur Onslow, Speaker of the House of Commons.
11. Lord Powis.
12. The Duchess of Norfolk.
13. Miss Peggy Banks.
14. Lady Lincoln, wife of the 9th Earl.
15. Lord Littleton.





THE PANTILES, TUNBRIDGE WELLS





## THE HIGH ROCKS

After leaving the Pantiles we motored across the common, and in about two miles reached the famous High Rocks, of which an illustration is attached.

This romantic spot, a favourite resort of the visitors to Tunbridge Wells, is of great attraction to the geologist.

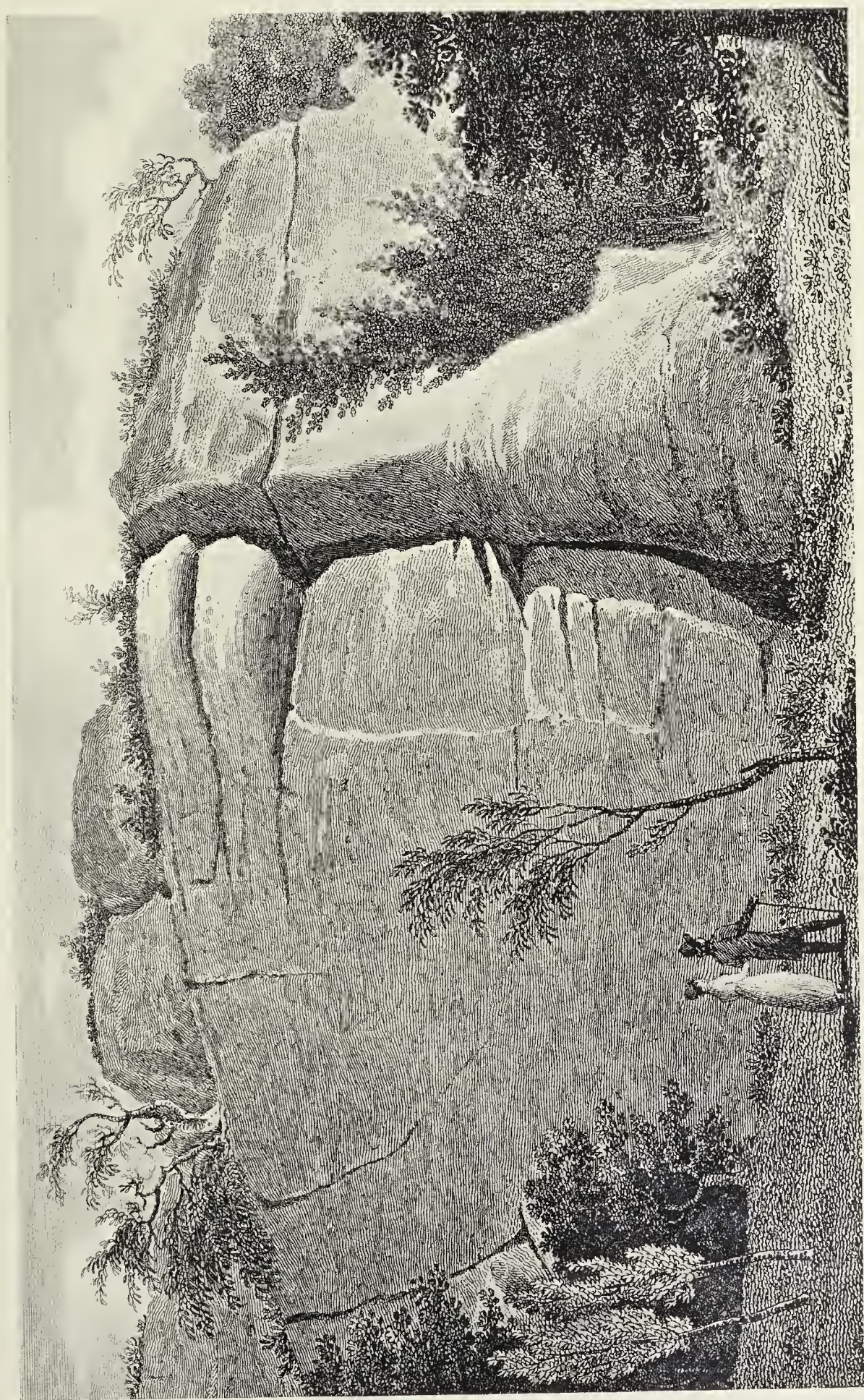
It is manifestly an ancient shore, a line of cliffs that for ages bore the brunt of the waves, when the valleys of the Kentish Weald were filled by the waters of the ocean, and the forest ridge and peaks were islands in an extensive archipelago.

We had a stroll round the rocks, through some of the great fissures, and then climbed to the top and noted their stupendous size and curious formations.

From here we had a pleasant drive through the Weald to Penshurst, where we took tea at the Leicester Arms on the lawn in the back garden. After a short visit to Penshurst Church we motored over to Combe Bank to dinner.








THE HIGH ROCKS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS





## Ashgrove

N October 14th Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kay asked a party of the Canadian doctors and nurses to visit them and stay for tea, but unfortunately only a few were able to come, as a large convoy of wounded had just arrived from the front. The host and hostess were good enough to repeat this invitation for October 28th, when a full party assembled and thoroughly enjoyed their visit to this hospitable home.

Ashgrove as it is now written, or Ash Grove as it used to be written some hundred years ago, has but little written history, but I have ascertained the following facts from various local guides and other sources.

The estate of Ashgrove appears to have been cut out of the waste lands of the manor of Sevenoaks or out of the common lands. The estate is still bounded on one side by the woods commonly called Sevenoaks Common.

The first record I find of any house on the Ashgrove estate is sometime after 1758, when I find it stated that a home was built on this estate by a Captain Smyth.

This man was a great character—he had fought at the battle of Minden in 1758 under Lord George Sackville, and he lived for a time at Knole. At this time a new Militia law came into force, and the magistrates called a meeting of the townsmen at the Crown Hotel.

The meeting broke up in disorder, and the mob proceeded to the Rectory, but the Rev. Dr. Curteis fled across

the fields to Knole, where he told the story to Captain Smyth, who was in charge of the mansion. He ordered the gates to be closed and barricaded, and drew in all the workmen. Meanwhile the mob wrecked the Rectory, drove the magistrates away in terror, and then assailed the gates of Knole itself, and demanded the surrender of Dr. Curteis. Captain Smyth ordered his charger, that he had ridden at Minden, to be got ready; he then commanded the stable gates to be thrown open, and with pistol and sword charged the rabble. This daring act of a single brave man struck terror into the hearts of the mob, who broke and fled.

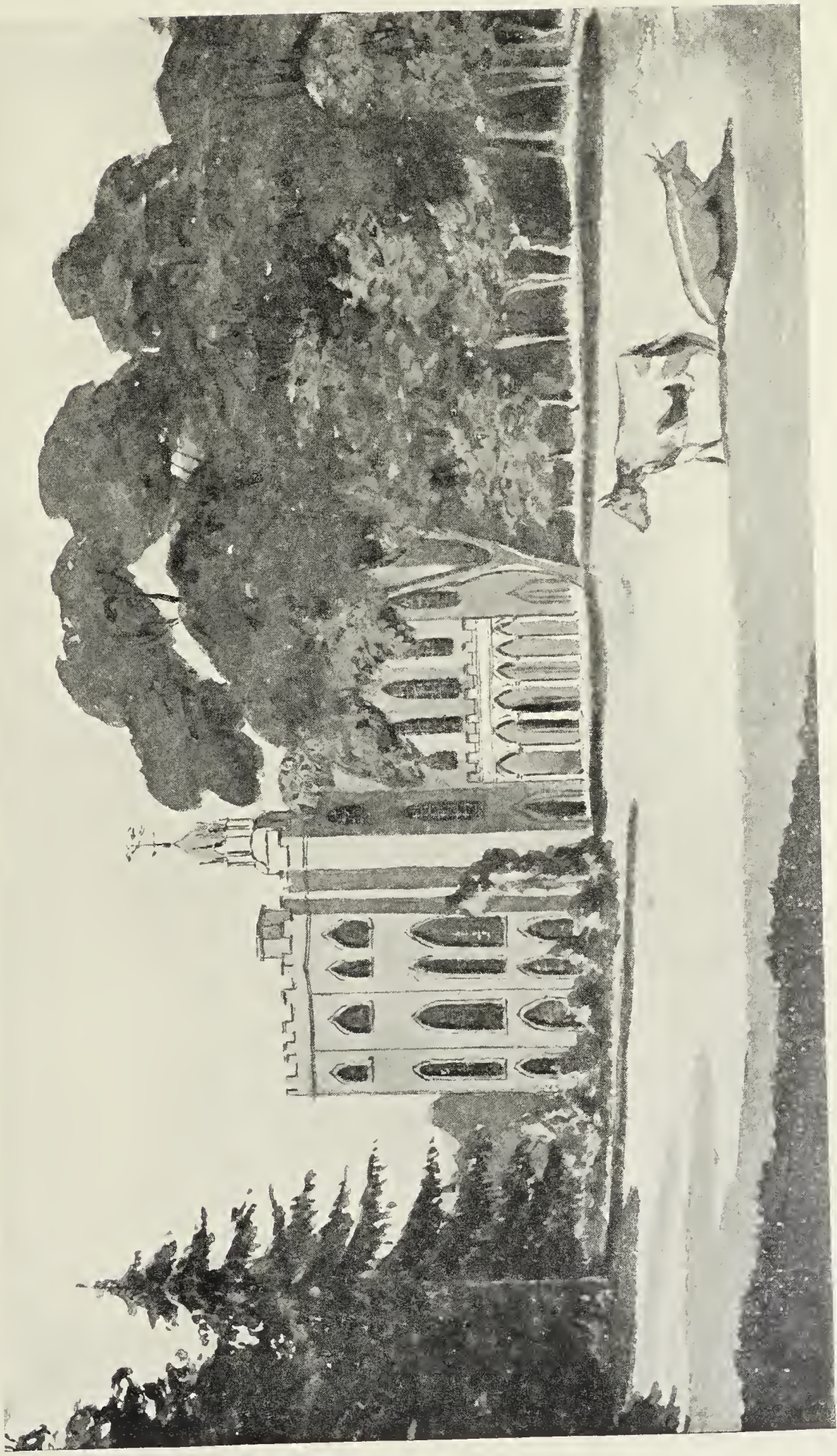
It next appears to have been purchased by Francis Otway, Esq., after whose death his daughter, Miss Aurea Otway, was married to Multon Lambarde, Esq., on 22 September, 1789.

In 1804 Ashgrove was occupied by Christopher Cooke, Esq., who was High Sheriff of Kent that year. It next was in possession of a family named Haldeman, of whom I have no details, except that they sold it to the next owner, Alexander Glendining, Esq., who about 1835 considerably enlarged it and effected various improvements; about 1860 it was purchased by the Hon. and Rev. Frederick Baring, who employed Mr. Punnet, of Tonbridge, to enlarge and almost rebuild the house.

Mr. Baring was the third son of the Right Hon. Alexander Baring, 1st Baron Ashburton. He died in June, 1868; his widow sold Ashgrove the same year to Kirkman Daniel Hodgson, Esq., M.P., on whose death it passed to Robert K. Hodgson, Esq., J.P., D.L., who married in 1875 Lady Honora Janet (Nora), third daughter of the 9th Earl of Cork.

In January, 1907, the present owner, Mr. Edward Kay, bought Ashgrove from Mr. Hodgson.





ASHGROVE

THE OLD HOUSE, *circa* 1758



The estate is now about 174 acres, but in the time of Mr. Hodgson was considerably more.

The house is delightfully situated some 650 ft. above sea-level, and stands in a small park surrounded by fine trees.

In front of the drawing-room there is a sunk rose garden, and a walk to the right of this leads to the famous rhododendron plantation. Some of these are over 46 ft. high, and are said to be the highest in England. They were planted about 1790, and at the same period an inner fringe of azaleas was planted, which are now great trees.

The walled gardens are very extensive, as also are the glass houses, which are specially adapted for fruit cultivation.

After a trip to Japan in 1905 Mrs. Kay decided to lay out a Japanese garden based on sketches she had made. This was finished some years ago, and is a fine sight in the spring, when the iris, etc., are in full flower. The bridge over the lake is a correct copy of the famous Nikko bridge over which only the Mikado is allowed to walk.

The most ancient portion of the house appears to be the stables, which are embattled, and which may be a remnant of the first house built here.

Inside Ashgrove is most commodious, and very well adapted for the reception of large parties of guests.

The drawing-room is no less than 50 ft. long and 25 ft. wide, and the decoration is based upon that of the double cube room at Wilton House, Salisbury.

The dining-room was designed by Baseir, the architect of Belgrave Square. This would date it about 1820.

Mr. Kay had the hall and billiard-room panelled from floor to ceiling, which has greatly added to the appearance of the house.

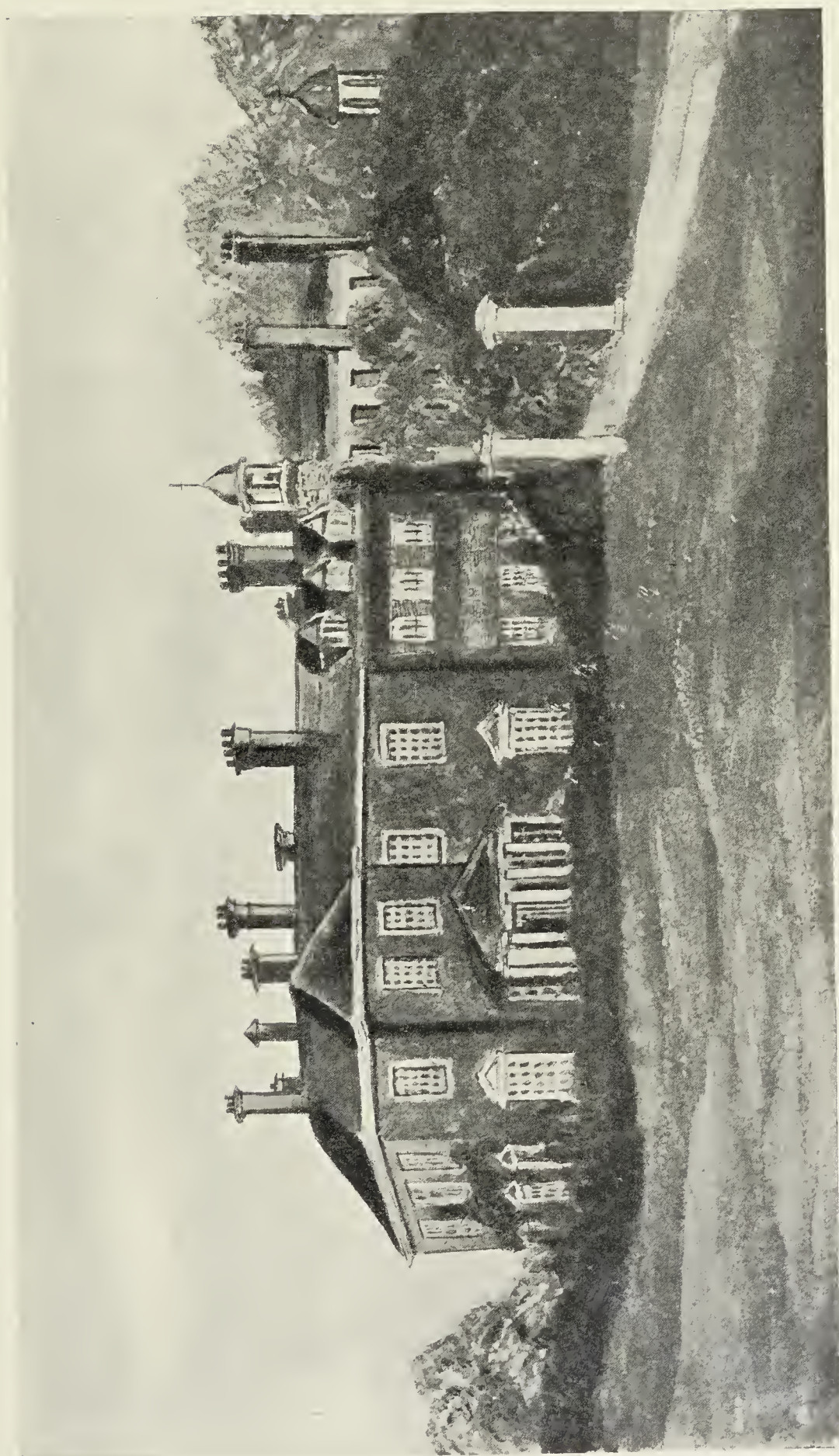


Mrs. Kay's bedroom is especially charming—the furniture is all of Japanese lacquer, and the walls have been covered with embroideries in the Japanese style all in blue and white, and worked by herself.

At Christmas, 1913, Mr. Kay presented the town of Sevenoaks with some much needed swimming baths, at a cost of over £6000, this being in grateful remembrance of forty years spent in this country.

On the occasion of the second visit of the Canadians to Ashgrove, Mr. and Mrs. Kay were good enough to ask the whole party to dinner. After a most enjoyable musical evening, the party left about 10.15 p.m. and caught a train at Sevenoaks for Orpington.

We have to record with regret that since the above was written Mr. Kay has been removed from us. He died suddenly on Dec. 23rd.



*Reproduced from a water-colour*

ASHGROVE  
MAIN ENTRANCE





## Mereworth Castle



ON October 21st, the Canadian nurses and doctors visited Mereworth Castle by kind invitation of Viscount and Viscountess Falmouth.

This seat is built after a plan of Palladio, designed for a noble Vicentine gentleman who had a villa built just outside the city of Venice. An ancestor of Lord Falmouth had this villa copied at Mereworth.

The house has four fronts, each having a portico at the top of a noble flight of steps. Under the floor of the hall and best apartments, accommodation has been made for the servants. The hall, which is in the middle, forms a cupola, and receives its light from above. It is formed of double walls, between which the smoke is conveyed through the chimneys to the centre at top. The wings are a small distance from the house and are elegantly designed.

The house was originally surrounded by a moat, but that has been filled in by Lord Falmouth's father, and formal gardens now rest on its site.

In the front of the house there is an avenue cut through the woods, three miles long, forming a communication with the London road near Wrotham. This was planned at great expense and labour by Lord Westmorland.

The illustration attached gives a view of the house before the moat was filled up.

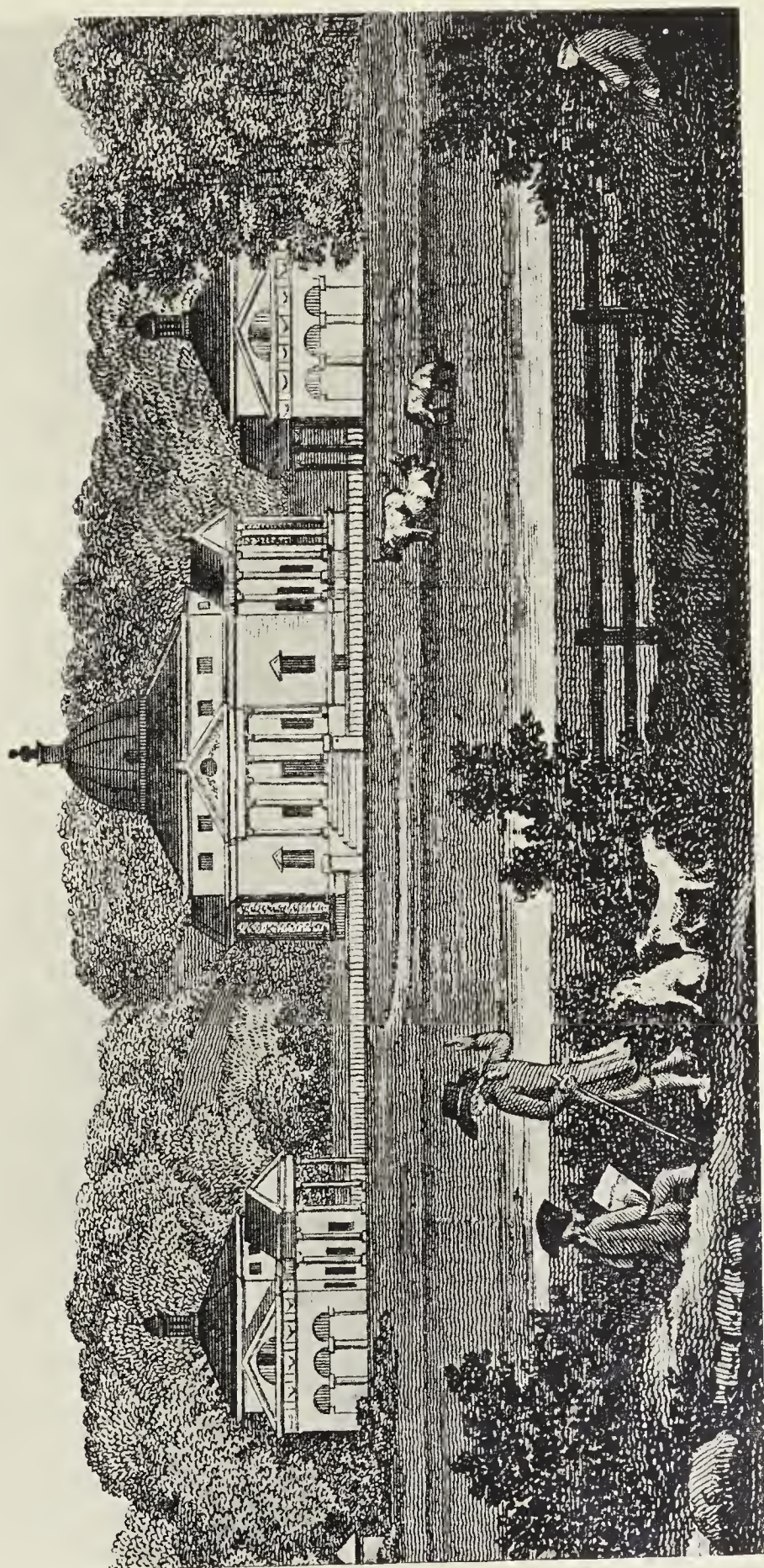
Mereworth is on the road between Hadlow and Maidstone and is some seven miles from Sevenoaks.

In the reign of Henry II Mereworth was held by Roger de Mereworth, but after being in this family for three generations it passed to Nicholas de Brembre, Mayor of London, in the first year of Richard II [1377]; he was afterwards knighted for his good services against Wat Tyler, but in 1387 was attainted of high treason and Mereworth escheated to the Crown. It then passed through various hands until it came to the Fanes, from whom it descended to the Baroness Le Despencer, who married Sir Thomas Fane, who died at Mereworth Castle 28th June, 1626. On the failure of heirs male, it passed to Thomas Fane, Earl of Westmorland, in 1715, who died at Mereworth 4th June, 1736. He was succeeded by his brother John, who became 7th Earl of Westmorland. It is this John who built the present castle, as well as the church of Mereworth. He died without issue and left Mereworth to his nephew, Sir E. Dashwood, Bart., who in 1763 was created Lord Le Despencer, and it has continued in this family ever since, as the present owner, Sir Evelyn Edward Thomas Boscawen, is Baron of Boscawen Rose, Cornwall, and Baron Le Despencer in England, as well as 7th Viscount Falmouth. His lordship married in 1886 the Hon. Kathleen Douglas-Pennant, daughter of the 2nd Lord Penrhyn.

The party were shown round the house by Lord and Lady Falmouth, and by Lady Rawlinson, wife of General Sir Henry Seymour Rawlinson, K.C.B.

The whole of the rooms on the ground floor are built round the great central hall; the grand drawing-room was greatly admired. The collection of pictures is especially strong in paintings of celebrated race-horses that have been





MEREWORTH CASTLE





owned by Lord Falmouth or by his father, whose colours have been famous on the turf for many years. Blood stock of the highest grade is still bred at Mereworth.

Tea was served in the large dining-room at two tables, after which Lord Falmouth took the party for a stroll through the gardens; the magnificent hedges and herbageous borders being much admired.

After many thanks for their hospitality to our kind host and hostess, we left this lovely placed home about 6.30 and drove back to Sundridge, where the whole party dined at Combe Bank with Mr. Robert Mond, and afterwards caught the 10.44 p.m. train to Orpington.





## Buckhurst



It is necessary to point out that there are two Buckhursts, which lie about half a mile apart. Old Buckhurst was the ancient seat of the Sackville family from about 1203 to 1603, when they removed to Knole.

With this most interesting house, I have not to deal in the present article, but to confine myself to new Buckhurst, the property of the Earl De La Warr, but now leased to Mr. Robert H. Benson, who kindly asked our Canadian friends to visit Buckhurst on November 4th last.

The manor of Buckhurst is called Brochest in Domesday Survey of 1086; about 1150 it was in the possession of Ralph de Dene, whose daughter and heiress Ela married Jordan de Sackville, and took this manor, and much other property, with her to the Sackville family.

The first building on the site of the present mansion of Buckhurst is believed to have been a keeper's house erected about 1650. At this time the park was called Stoneland Park, and it was only in the time of Lionel Cranfield Sackville, 1st Duke of Dorset [1687-1765], that a modern house was built here which was called Stonelands Lodge.

The Duke leased this house to his third son, Lord George Sackville, who was born in 1782 and who had a most interesting career, and held many posts of great importance. In 1745 he was Lieut.-Colonel of the 28th Foot, and distinguished himself at Fontenoy, where

he was wounded and captured. In 1758 he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of all the British Forces on the Lower Rhine, but was under the supreme command of Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick. He was Chief Secretary to the Viceroy of Ireland 1751-6. In 1770 he inherited Drayton Manor in Northamptonshire, together with £20,000, from Lady Betty Germaine, and he assumed the name Germaine after Sackville, and was created Viscount Sackville in 1782. He has been credited with being the author of the *Letters of Junius*, but this is certainly not correct. He died in 1785, and Stonelands Lodge passed to John Frederick Sackville, 3rd Duke of Dorset—he died in 1799, and his widow Arabella Diana married secondly in 1801 Charles, Earl Whitworth.

The Duchess and Lord Whitworth spent a lot of money in laying out the grounds and park. Old Buckhurst Park and the smaller park round Stonelands were thrown into one great park of some 2000 acres and known in future as Buckhurst Park, the old name being dropped.

The Duchess of Dorset died in 1825, and as there was no male heir the great Sackville property was unfortunately divided between two coheiresses: Lady Mary Sackville, married to the Earl of Plymouth, had Knole and other estates; and Lady Elizabeth Sackville, married to George John West, 5th Earl De La Warr, had Buckhurst and much other property in Sussex and elsewhere.

This property still remains in the De La Warr family.

The 5th Earl De La Warr made extensive additions to the house, and added the private chapel. Mr. R. H. Benson has much extended the house; he has added an extra story and has made most extensive alterations in the grounds, which are exceedingly beautiful. Around the large lake there are waterfalls, Japanese islands, and large plantations

of *Iris Kaempferi*, etc. The sunk garden is also very fine and supported by terraces built by Mr. Benson.

On 10th October, 1835, Princess Victoria, shortly afterwards our Queen, planted an oak tree close to the terraces leading to the lake.

I must specially mention the lovely drives from the entrance lodges to the house, the trees were just in their full colour of autumn tints and were a blaze of red, orange and yellow, mingled with the dark green of the firs and other evergreen trees and shrubs.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Benson kindly showed our party over the mansion with its many and very valuable treasures.

The chapel of the De La Warrs has been converted into a music-room, and the hall has been panelled with oak wainscoting brought from Bolebrook, another ancient seat of the Sackvilles near-by.

One of the finest rooms in the house is the library, formed out of three large rooms thrown into one. One of these rooms contains the Old Sackville and De La Warr books, including many valuable manuscripts and books removed from Knole.

The finest panelling is that in the dining-room, which is adorned with very fine Henry VIII carved panels, which were made for the 10th Baron De La Warr for his mansion at Halnaker, near Chichester, about 1540; as there were not sufficient of the original woodwork, copies have been made to complete the decoration of the room, but these are so well done that they cannot be detected without a close examination.

In the billiard-room is the fine Jacobean oak mantelpiece also removed from Bolebrook. The walls are hung with Chinese paper.

The pictures include "Charles I" by Mytens and



three of Mytens' "Lord Vere's Captains," also "Charles II and his Sister," of the school of Van Dyck.

In the tea-room is a signed work by Francesco Bissolo, and a portrait by Palma Vecchio.

A Persian carpet over 22 ft. long of about 1575 is very valuable.

The hall is unusually large and contains a most valuable collection of Chinese porcelain, of special interest being the wonderfully modelled horses and very valuable bowls and vases of the earliest periods. There are also wonderful old Persian carpets, a valuable collection of Chinese lacquer, which, together with a good collection of pictures by Italian masters, give the distinctive touches to this collection.

Mr. Robert H. Benson is the senior partner of Robert Benson and Co., merchant bankers, London, descended from an old family in North Lancashire. He married in 1887 Evelyn, daughter of R. S. Holford, Esq., of Dorchester House, Park Lane, London, and Westonbirt, Gloucester.

Some amusement was caused here by the non-arrival of one of our cars containing a medical officer and two of the nurses of the Orpington Hospital. However, just as we were leaving they turned up with some excuse about a defect in the carburettor, but this appeared rather thin as the same party had been a couple of hours late before on another outing. Wild horses would not induce me to publish the name!

A delightful afternoon had been spent at this fine mansion, which we left rather late and had to drive through the Weald in the dark, via Edenbridge to Combe Bank, where the evening was spent in the usual charming manner, and the whole party were made to feel themselves at home and amongst friends.

## Combe Bank



It situate on the high ground lying on the right-hand side of the main road from Sevenoaks to Westerham, and is some four miles from the former place.

It is supposed to be so called from some ancient camp near-by, the word *comb* in Saxon signifying a *camp*. Possibly a branch of the great Roman road to Keston Camp at Bromley passed through this estate, as some 150 years ago many antique urns were found in digging near it.

The earliest mention I find of it is in the reign of Henry VIII, when it was in possession of the great family of the Isleys, who had many possessions in Sundridge, Chevening, and Sevenoaks.

In the latter end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth it was sold to the family of Ash, the last of whom, William Ash, sold it to Colonel John Campbell about 1720.

It is this Colonel Campbell who rebuilt the house, which however has been much added to since his time.

I must not omit to mention a great celebrity who was born at Combe Bank in 1748. I refer to Anne Seymour Conway, granddaughter of Colonel John Campbell.

Her father was Field-Marshal the Honourable Seymour Conway, who married in 1741 Lady Caroline Campbell, the daughter of Colonel Campbell.

In June, 1767, Anne Conway married the Hon. John Damer, eldest son of Lord Milton, afterwards Earl of Dorchester, and of Lady Caroline Sackville, daughter of Lionel Sackville, 1st Duke of Dorset.

Anne Damer turned her attention to sculpture in 1777, and became a sculptor of the first rank in her day.

Mrs. Damer's works consisted chiefly of groups of animals and busts of her friends.

Among her more important works may be mentioned :—

A bust of her mother in Portland stone on the tomb in Sundridge church.

Bust of Lord Nelson in the Common Council Chamber of the Guildhall.

Bust of Lord Nelson in bronze at Windsor Castle.

Bust of Charles James Fox, presented by the sculptor to Napoleon.

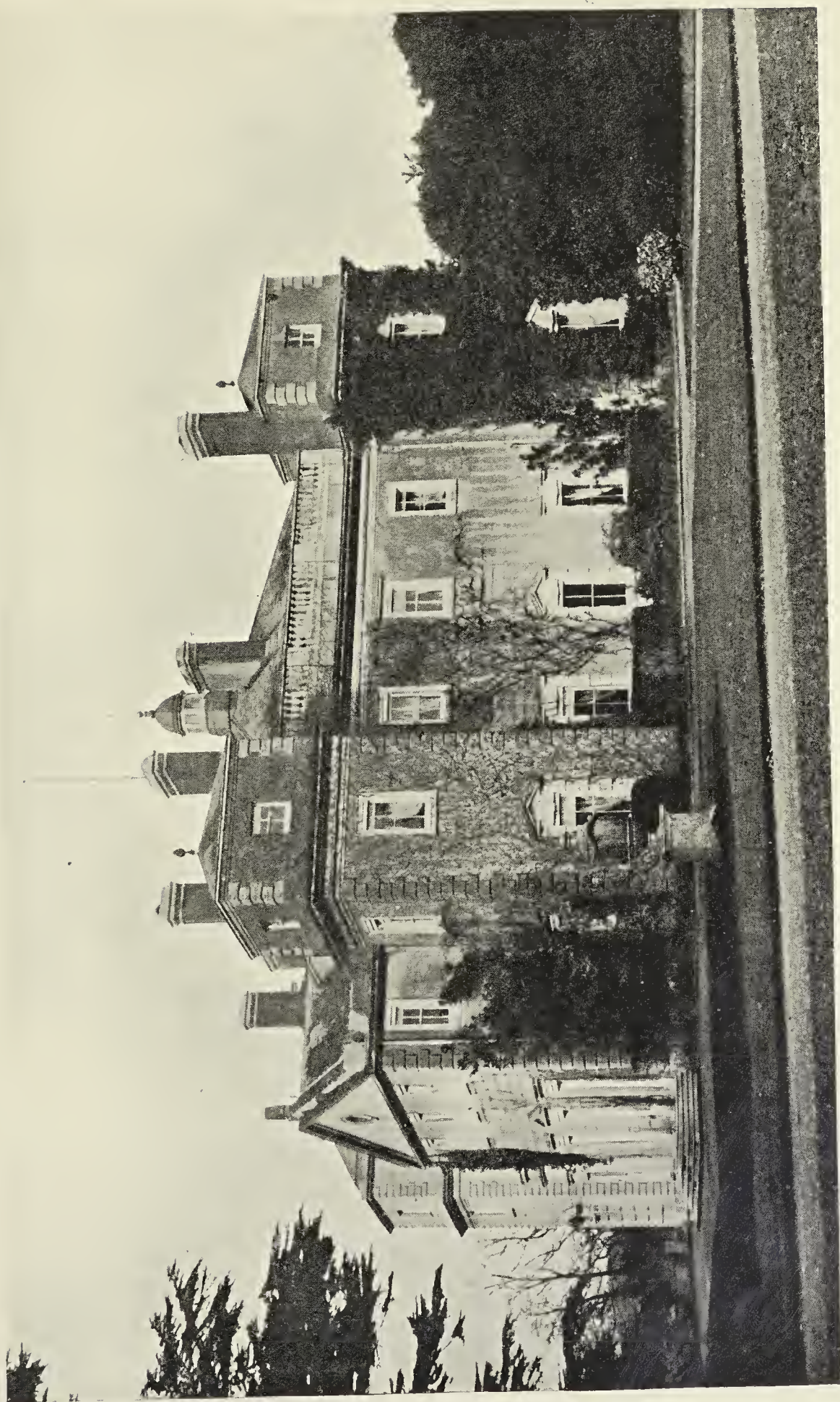
Mrs. Damer was a goddaughter of the celebrated Horace Walpole, 4th Earl of Orford, and by his will he appointed her his residuary legatee "on account of her taste in art and her respect for antiquities"; he also left her a life interest in Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, and its contents and £2000 a year.

Mrs. Damer died May 28, 1828.

In April, 1761, Colonel Campbell, upon the death of his cousin, became the 4th Duke of Argyll. His eldest son, also named John, was created a peer of Great Britain during the lifetime of his father as Baron Sundridge, of Combe Bank, Kent, on December 22nd, 1766.

John, 4th Duke of Argyll, in his lifetime gave Combe Bank to his third son, Lord Frederick Campbell, who married, in 1769, Mary, widow of Lawrence, 4th Earl Ferrers. Before her marriage to Lord Ferrers she was Mary Bellenden, a famous beauty.





COMBE BANK



Lord Frederick Campbell was much and deservedly esteemed, and the neighbouring country in general was much indebted to him for the very great improvements he made in the roads, which were principally under his superintendence and direction. He specially made the road from the village to the church at his own expense.

Lord Frederick Campbell died June 8th, 1816, and Combe Bank was sold to Arthur Chichester, 1st Baron Templemore, who married, in 1820, Lady Augusta Paget, daughter of the 1st Marquess of Anglesey. In 1833, some four years before his death, Lord Templemore sold Combe Bank to William Manning, Esq., father of the famous Cardinal Manning. His Eminence had many recollections of the place, and has mentioned that he had the misfortune to lose the tails of his first dress-coat by fire at Combe Bank while waiting to accompany his sister to a ball.

The Mannings sold the estate to the Rev. A. P. Clayton about 1845, who lived here over twenty years, and who, after 1864, sold it to William Spottiswoode, the mathematician and physicist, and who was president of the Royal Society 1878-83. He died in 1883, and was succeeded by his son, Hugh Spottiswoode, who sold Combe Bank to Mr. Robert Mond in 1907.

Dr. Beilby Porteus, Bishop of London, in a rare little work limited to twenty copies that he published in 1807, referring to Combe Bank, says :—

“It stands on a bold eminence rising out of an extensive valley, with which it is every way surrounded. From this circumstance it possesses an advantage which few other houses can boast, and that is a very fine prospect on every side of it, yet each differing from the others. The principal and most striking feature in the place is a majestic terrace, stretching from east to west, six hundred



yards in length, and commanding a very extensive view to the south over a most enchanting vale, where almost every pleasing rural object meets the eye."

At the western extremity of this terrace there is a cedar of Lebanon, supposed to be the largest in Europe. It was planted by the 4th Duke of Argyll nearly two hundred years ago, and is 24 ft. in girth.

The lake on the north side of the house is upwards of a quarter of a mile in length, and extends to about six acres.

The lovely park, with the demesne lands and farms, extends to some 550 acres, and from Brasted to Sundridge the river Darent flows through it. The trees in the park are specially fine.

Combe Bank is well suited for the profuse hospitality of the owner. The music, drawing, and dining rooms are unusually spacious and lofty, and the house is well suited for the entertainment of large numbers of guests.

During the war very large parties of wounded and convalescent soldiers have been entertained here. On one memorable Saturday no less than two thousand were brought to Combe Bank from the London and district hospitals.

Most week-ends see parties of officers from the neighbouring villages and doctors and nurses from the hospitals being entertained here and enjoying their well-earned and much-appreciated rest in delightful surroundings. Mr. Mond has given the home farm on the Combe Bank estate to be used as a convalescent home for wounded soldiers, and this is run entirely at his expense.

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