

WAKEHURST, SLAUGHAM, AND GRAVETYE.

BY W. H. BLAAUW, ESQ., F.S.A.

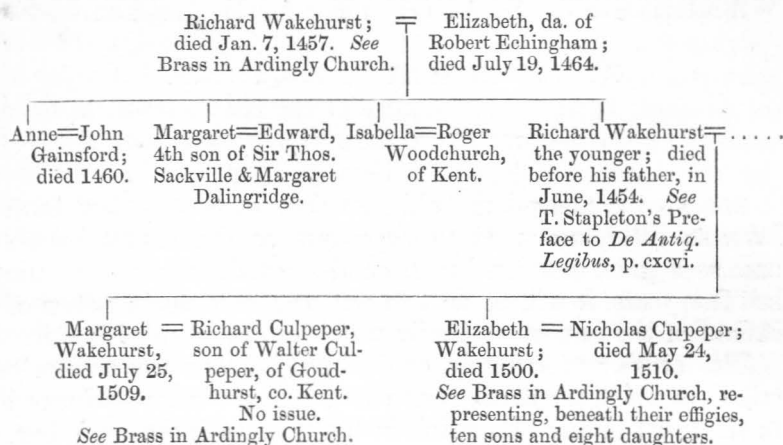
AMONG the many large old mansions of Sussex, few have been so little known to topographers as Wakehurst Place; and as a great portion has been destroyed, even within the last few years, it will be well to put on record some notice of it, and of the important family which built and inhabited it.

The lordship of Ardingly, or Erthingleigh, as it was anciently called, in which the house is situated, appears to have belonged to the great family of Bardolf in the thirteenth century; but, after the attainder of Thomas Bardolf, in 1405-6, to have been given by Henry IV. to his brother, Thomas Beaufort. (Dugdale's *Baronage*, i. pp. 681, 683.) It is stated in Horsfield's *County History*, i. p. 259, by some error, that "Richard Wakehurst was knighted at the siege of Carclaverock, by King Edward;" but the name certainly does not appear in the well-known poem or any other chronicle of that siege. An early record of the family bearing the same name as the manor of Wakehurst, within the parishes of Ardingly, Balcombe, and Worth, is in the Subsidy Roll of 1412, now first published in this volume, p. 141:—"John Wakherst held lands and tenements, with appurtenances, at Wakherst, worth xx*li*. a year." Richard Wakehurst, who was probably his son, was, in 1410-11, one of the attorneys for Thomas Earl of Arundel, on his departure from England. (Rymer, *Fæd.*) In 1415, he was commissioned, together with John Coke, mayor of Chichester, and others, for the gaol delivery of that city. (MS. Memoranda Rolls, m. viii.) At his death, Jan. 7, 1457, he was possessed

of the church of Ardingly and 200 acres of land. It is probable that the "messuage" was his residence; but, as no portion of it remains, it is uncertain whether it occupied the same spot as the present building.

The brief Pedigree, therefore, would stand thus:—

JOHN WAKEHURST, 1412.



The above marriage of Elizabeth Wakehurst carried the estate to the Culpepers, of whom Dugdale says: "that this family hath, for many ages past, flourisht with great esteem in the counties of Kent and Sussex, I need not here stand to give instance." (*Baronage*, i. 472.) It will be seen, by the following pedigree of the Sussex Culpepers (which has been compiled from the Visitations in the Harleian MSS. 1076, 1484, and 1562), that the family settled at Wakehurst, which alone it is here necessary to trace, branched off from the main Kentish stock, by Walter, of Goudhurst, the younger brother of Sir John Culpeper, and father of Richard and Nicholas, who married the Wakehurst heiresses. This Walter was probably the same who, at the siege of Harfleur, previous to the battle of Agincourt, resisted so valiantly a sally of the enemy. He and Edward Colepeper were then serving under Sir William Bourchier, and carried with them five archers to the field. (Nicolas's *Agincourt*, pp. 203, 361, 376.) This was not the

only victory where the banner of the Culpepers was displayed, of which Drayton speaks in his *Barons' War*:—

“And Colepeper, with silver arm inrailed,¹
Bare thereupon a bloody bend engrailed.”

Dugdale mentions that the arms of two of the family were set up in Whitehall, by King Henry VIII., for their valour at the battle of Spurs. The name of one of the Kentish Culpepers appears in a less enviable situation, cut into the stone wall of the room in the Tower of London supposed to be Sir Walter Raleigh's prison:—“Be faithful to the end, and I will give you a crown of eternal life. 1554, T. Fane, J. Culpeper, of Ailsford, Kent.” The loyalty of the elder branch in Kent obtained a peerage in 1644, their own surname being retained for the baronial title, which became extinct in 1719. The baronetage conferred in 1628, on the younger Culpepers, of Wakehurst, lasted a little longer, but became extinct on the death of the fourth holder of the title, in 1727.

There are two interior views of the hall and staircase of Wakehurst Place, in Nash's beautiful folio of *Ancient Mansions in the Olden Time*, 1st part, pl. 6 and 7; but it is surprising that his text should have described it as “a brick building of one story,” when the whole exterior is of stone, and three stories in height. It was built by Sir Edward Culpeper in the year 1590, as is recorded outside a small door on the west front. The notes of Sir W. Burrell (Add. MSS. 5684, f. 151) state “that it was of considerable extent, and was originally a square, the south front of which has been taken down a considerable time.” On what authority this is asserted does not appear, and there were no signs left of such partial destruction when the accompanying views were taken² on the spot, fourteen years ago; but unbappily since that time both the long wings have been shortened three-fifths of their length, and their now stunted frontage is faced by replacing the same gables which terminated formerly the more extended wings. The heavy roofing of Horsham stone had so pressed upon the beams of

¹ In the Roll of Arms *temp.* Henry III., the same shield is assigned to “Robert Walronde—d'Argent ung bend engrele de Goules.”

² It is to the kindness of Mrs. F. Davies

that the Society is indebted for the permission to use her drawings for the woodcuts, and also for those of Slaugham and Gravetye.

SIR JOHN CULPEPER, of Bay Hall, Pembury, co. Kent.

Sir Thomas Culpeper, of Bay Hall, Kt.; executed at Winchelsea, for treason, 1321; married Margaret.

Sir John Culpeper, High Sheriff of Kent, 43 Edw. III.; m. Elizabeth, da. and coheir of Sir John Hardreshull, Kt.

Sir Thomas Culpeper, High Sheriff of Kent, 18 Rich. II.; = Elizabeth, da. and heiress of Nicholas Greene, co. Rutland. (Elenor, in MS. 1562.)

Sir John Culpeper, Kt., of Bedgebury. Walter Culpeper, of Goudhurst; died 1462. = Anne, da. of Edmund Roper, of Canterbury.

Richard Culpeper, summoned as Homager in = Margaret Wakehurst, Nicholas Culpeper, of Wakehurst, d. May 24, 1510. = Elizabeth Wakehurst, d. 1500. manor of Ifelde, A.D. 1484, as also Nicholas. died July 25, 1509. Had 10 sons & 8 drs. See Brass in Ardingly Church.

Richard Culpeper, of Wakehurst, = . . . da. of Alderman Thomas, m. Joane¹ Fenner. George, d. Jan. 30, 1542,² m. Alice, Edward, Margaret, Edward: & others. Naylor, of London. issue a son, William.

John Culpeper, of Wakehurst, = Emma, da. of Sir Jasper, m. Anne, William. Thomas, m. Anne John,³ m. Margaret. Edward, Elizabeth, Anne, Alice, Richard. died March 28, 1565. John Erneley, Knt. widow of Richard Clifford. Asheborneham, widow of John Bolney, d. Jan. 15, 1600, aged 70.

Thomas Culpeper, of Wakehurst, held advowson = Philippa, da. of John Thatcher, William. Edward. Jasper? Dorothy. Jane. of Ardingly, and lands in the manor of Walsted. of Priesthawes.

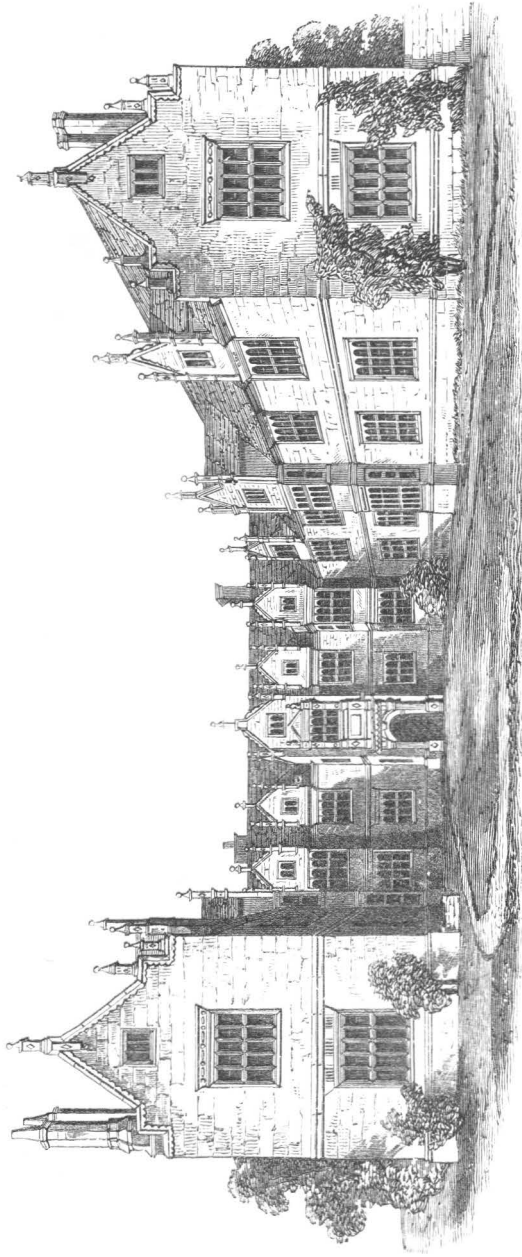
Sir Edward Culpeper, Knt., of Wakehurst, builder = Elizabeth, da. of William Farnefold, of Steyning; of Wakehurst Place in 1590: living 1628. died Sept. 10, 1633. See Brass in Ardingly Church.

Elizabeth, Timothy, m. Dorothy, Margery, Anne, m. Sir John Katherine, Sir William Culpeper, = Jane, da. of Edward Culpeper, living in 1634; m. Mary, da. of Sir Edward Bellingham, Kt. m. John 1. George m. John m. Anthony m. Thomas, Culpeper, d. Oct. 1623; m. Richard Infield, of m. Benjamin Pellett, of m. Mary, da. of Sir Edward Bellingham, Kt. White-Phillips, of Theobalds, Bickerstaff, Woode, died in his father's lifetime. m. Richard Infield, of bur. Dec. 6, 1678. Bolney, Kt. m. Mary, da. of Sir Edward Bellingham, Kt. field, of Tenterden; 2. of Stoupitt, co. Kent. Hoathly. Gravetye. Sir William Culpeper, of Wakehurst: created Baronet, 1628; bur. Dec. 6, 1678.

Elizabeth, Anne, m. Ninian Sir Benjamin Culpeper, = Catherine, da. Sir Edward Culpeper, = Jane. Dorothy. Catherine. died Dec. 6, 1634, aged 7. See Brass in Ardingly Church. Burrell, of Cuckfield. of Wakehurst, 2nd Bart. b. 1629. and coheir of Goldsmith Hudson. Benjamin, died before his father. = Judith, da. of Sir William Wilson, of Eastbourne, Bt. Mary.

Sir William Culpeper, 4th Bart. Sold Wakehurst, 1694; died unm. 1727.

(For the Notes see next page.)



WAKEHURST PLACE—SOUTH FRONT.

the roof, that the expenses of repair were alleged as necessitating this lamentable destruction of one of the most stately and ornamented houses of the Elizabethan period in Sussex.

Previous to this sad alteration, the south front extended one hundred and ten feet eleven inches from east to west, each wing being twenty-five feet wide, leaving an open court between them; and the fronts to the east and to the west, facing the garden, were one hundred and nine feet six inches in length. The many dormer windows, with their enriched crocketed gables and pinnacles, gave a peculiarly noble air to the interior court, when approaching the great central porch, ornamented by two stories of columnar architecture. The hall, though a handsome room, is not of those proportions often found in such mansions absorbing half the house, but is of one story, with an embossed stucco ceiling, and a deep frieze running under it round the room of mermaids and other devices, and the family crest (a falcon argent, with wings extended, beak and tassels or, on the breast a crescent, standing upon the trunk of a tree, with a branch issuing from it, proper) is seen between E. C. at the west end. On the north side is the large chimney-piece, of

Notes to Pedigree in preceding page.

¹ Joane, as widow of Thomas Culpeper, of Crawley, Esq. (*temp.* Hen. VIII.), desired her body to be buried in Crawley Church. Her will gives to her youngest son, John Fenner, "a saltzeller with a cover, and halfe a dozen of the best sylver sponys, and a bede, together with all her waynes and carts, with such other thyngs that appertainyth unto husbandry;" to her second daughter, Alice Fenner, *xxli.*, which John Fenner, her grandfather, gave her by his last will; to her youngest daughter, the same; "to my daughter Fenner, my best beads of corroll gawdye with gold;" and to Elene, her daughter, a little cope, gilt. Will witnessed by Edward Shurley, John Fenner the younger, &c.; proved at Lewes.—MSS. of Mr. M. A. Lower.

² George Culpeper, of Balcombe, gent.; was buried in the church there, "before the alter or memoriall of our Lady:" his land in Balcombe, called Neeland, was bequeathed to his son William. His widow, Alice, gave benefactions to the poor at Balcombe and Erdingly. Their sons were, William of Worth, deceased at the date

of her will, leaving Jane, Charles, and Edward; Thomas, and Richard. The will, dated Jan. 12, 1571, was written by her cousin, John Culpeper, parson of Ardingly, witnessed by Richard Culpeper of Onstye, and proved at Lewes.—MSS. of Mr. M. A. Lower.

³ John, parson of Ardingly, by his will, dated Sept. 8, 1589, and proved August 21, 1590, bequeathed "xxs. to six of the poorest and most nedye of Erdingleigh; to each of his godchildren, *xiiid.*; to every one of his servants, *vs.*; to my brother, Richard Culpeper, yf he be lyvinge, and doe come hymselfe and demaund the same, *xls.* Item. I will that a sermon be made at my buriall, by Kellinbacke, or some other learned and discrete mynister, and that the said preacher have for his paines, *vis. viiiid.*" He appoints his wife Margaret and his son Richard executors, and his cousin Thomas Culpeper, of Neland, in Balcombe, and Mr. Thomas Board, of Lyndfeld, overseers of his will.—MSS. of Mr. M. A. Lower.

heavy design and rude execution. In painted stone carvings are groups of flowers, intermixed with strange allegorical figures, grotesque types of abundance, representing two clumsy females pressing milk from their breasts, and two Virtues, placed in niches, which they crowd up with their awkward bulk. Between the latter is an escutcheon, with twelve quarters of arms:—

1. Culpeper: arg. on a bend engrailed gules, a crescent for difference.
2. Hardreshull: arg. a chevron sable between ten martlets gules.
3. Hawte: or, a cross engrailed gules, in dexter chief a mullet sable for a difference.
4. Greene: azure, three stags tripping or.
5. Iwardby: arg. a fret sable, on a canton of the second a mullet of first.
6. Bruce: azure, a saltire, and chief or.
7. Anguish: arg. an inescutcheon within a double tressure fleury counterfleury gules.
8. Waltheof, or Walthers: arg. a lion rampant azure, a chief gules.
9. Randolphus, Earl of Chester: az. three garbs or.
10. Hugo Lupus, Comes Cestriæ: az. a wolf's head erased arg.
11. Wakehurst: arg. a chevron sa. between three parrots (?) gules.
12. Erneley: arg. on a bend sable, three eagles displayed or.

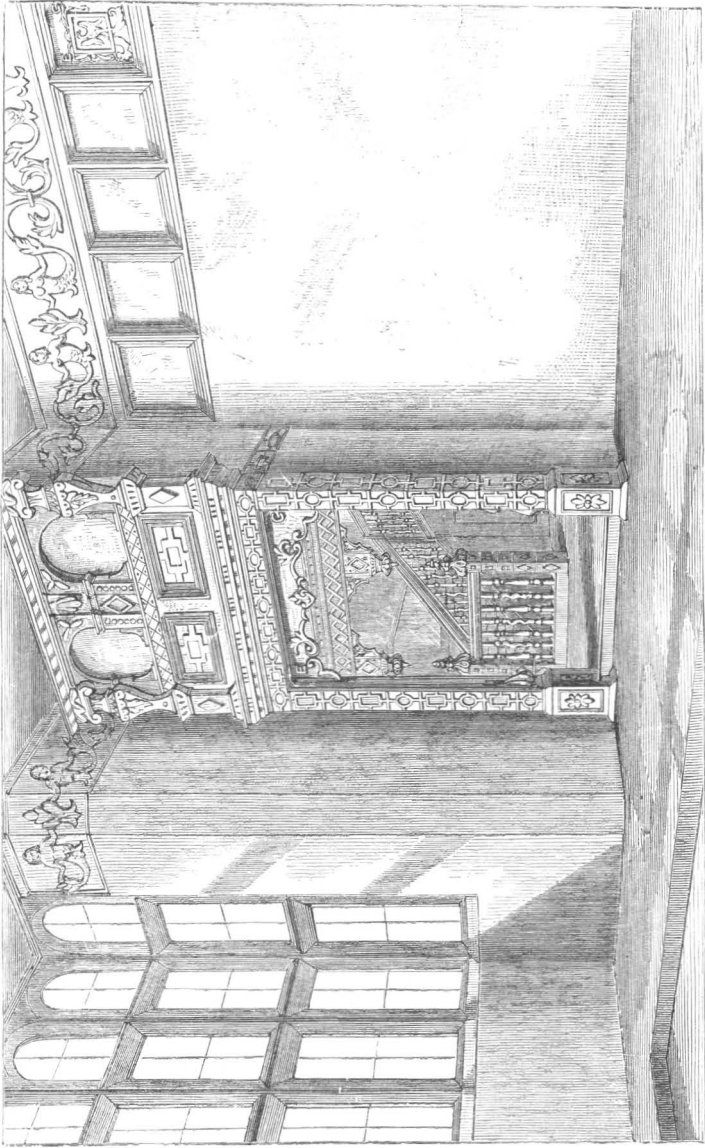
Along the cornice above is a series of fourteen shields of arms with names beneath each, now nearly illegible, mostly the same as above. The fresh ones introduced are:—

Montfort, Comes Evreux: per pale dancetty arg. and gules.
 Guglielmus, Comes Warren and Surrey: chequy or and az.
 Harrington and Culpeper quartered: first and fourth, sable, a fret argent; second and third, Culpeper.

Culpeper and Roberts: second and third, az. on a chevron arg. three mullets sable.

Culpeper and Ernly: arg. on a bend sable, cotted gules, three crescents or cups (?) or.

Culpeper and Thatcher: second and third gu., a cross moline arg.; on a chief or three grasshoppers proper.



WAKEHURST PLACE—HALL AND STAIRCASE

Culpeper and Fernefold: sable, a chevron sable, between three stags' heads erased arg.

It will be remarked, that some of these coats refer to the alliances of the Kentish stock of the family, of which this younger branch, bearing a crescent on the family arms, to denote their cadetcy, was evidently proud. The same numerous coats are also found recorded in the *Heraldic Visitations*, Harl. MSS., 1076, f. 172 *b* and 1194, f. 21.

The view of the doorway opening to the staircase, is very pleasing, as seen in the woodcut; and Nash remarks that "the staircase, from the ornamented case in which it is enclosed, looks as if it had been forgotten, and added by partitioning off part of the lobby." It is indeed of unusual aspect, and blocks up part of a window, having a sort of carved tester with pendants over it, and massive carved newels. If there is any truth in a south front having been long ago taken down, the small size of the hall, and the interpolated position of the stairs, may have been the result.

The west wing contained, till lately, on the ground floor, a large room, forty-one feet by nineteen feet three inches, opening into a square room of nineteen feet five inches, at the south end of the wing, and two similar rooms were over them. These were of course the principal ones, and were decorated with panelled walls, and stucco designs and pendants on the ceilings. In the lower room, the opening of the chimney-piece was six feet wide, and the quatrefoils of the ceiling had numerous drops, the larger ones charged with a rose, others with crests, and fleurs-de-lis. A broad frieze of intertwined mermaids went all round above the oak panelling. The ceiling of the upper room was divided into geometrical figures, having crests and other ornaments in the spaces.

The east wing was occupied by various offices, the brewhouse, the bakehouse, &c., and on this side only was there a passage giving separate access to the rooms. This was not thought necessary by the habits of the times as to the large rooms in the west wing, which are passage-rooms to those beyond.

There are drawings of the south front and of the porch of Wakehurst Place, by S. H. Grimm, taken in 1780, in the British Museum, Add. MSS. 5672, f. 39. The fourth and last Baronet of the Culpepers sold Wakehurst Place, in 1694, to

Dennis Lyddall, Commissioner of the Navy under William III., who married Martha, eldest daughter of Sir Richard Haddock, Knight, Comptroller of the Navy, and died in November, 1717, leaving two sons: Richard, of Blakes Hall, Essex, who died in June, 1727; and Charles, to whom the estate then passed, but who died without issue in January, 1757. By the will of the original purchaser, his great-nephews, Richard and Dennis Clarke, LL.D. (sons of John Clarke, who had married Elizabeth Haddock, a sister of Martha), then came into possession successively; and on the death, in 1776, of Dr. Clarke, without issue, the estate, by the disposition of Charles Lyddall, who had cut off the entail, became the property of Joseph Peyton, Captain, and afterwards Admiral, R.N., and in his descendants it continues. At intervals it has been stripped of furniture and abandoned; at other times it has been let to various occupants.

The stately remains of Slaugham Manor House, though not much known to topographers, attest the importance of the Covert family, which formerly raised and occupied it, leaving carved upon its ruined arches more of "the pomp of heraldry" than usually falls to the lot of such half-destroyed mansions. Having been built in the reign of James I., within a park of 1200 acres, in less than two centuries and a half, its own grandeur has utterly passed away, as well as the ancient and proud family which once filled its spacious courts with a retinue, it is said, of seventy persons.

The Coverts claimed for their Norman ancestor a fellow-soldier of the Conqueror, and seem to have established themselves, by a marriage with the heiress of the Aquilons, in considerable territorial dignity during the thirteenth century, at Sullington, in the rape of Bramber, where an old farmhouse near the church is considered to have marked their residence, and the broken effigy of a mailed knight, representing one of the family, remains in the church. The names of various members of the family very frequently occur in local history, as witnesses, benefactors, and owners of land.

Slaugham was for many generations in the hands of the Poynings, and did not come into the possession of the Coverts



WAKEHURST PLACE—WEST FRONT.

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till the latter part of the fifteenth century. It will not be necessary here to repeat the pedigree of the Coverts, which has been fully published in Berry's *Sussex Genealogies*, pp. 18, 19, and 321-323, and may be also referred to in Harl. MSS. 1562 and 1076, from the Visitation of 1633-4. It will be sufficient to note that William Covert, who died in 1494, is the first whom we find connected with Slaugham. His son John, who died in 1503, married a Pelham, and was succeeded by his cousin Richard, who died in 1547, after marrying four wives of the families of Fagge, Neville, Ashburnham, and Vaughan. Richard's eldest son, John, died at the siege of Boulogne, in 1558, and was followed by a son and grandson, who died in 1614, of the name of William, when we meet with Sir Walter Covert, of Maidstone, who married Ann, the heiress of the Coverts of Slaugham, and was probably the builder of the noble manor-house, whose ruins we are now considering. She died in 1632, surviving her husband; and their only son, John,¹ was created a baronet in 1660, but, dying in 1679, left no male issue to inherit his title. His daughter Ann carried the estate by marriage into the Morton family, by whom it was, in the year 1784, sold to the ancestor of the present proprietor, Warden Sergison, Esq.

Extracts from the will of William Covert, dated Sept. 29, 1494 (Add. MSS. 5684, ff. 218 *b* and 221 *b*), show that he bequeathed 40*s.* for the repair of Slaugham Church, where he desired to be buried, and for service to be said there. Three monastic houses were to have 20*s.* each "for reward for doing 3 trentalls of masses for him," and "a vertuous priest, graduated Dr., M.A., or B.A.," is to have £8 yearly to sing for his soul at Slaugham Church for five years after his death; but "if noe such can be gotten for that money, then another vertuous priest and well understanding to have 10 marcs" for such service. "Every poor clerk or priest known of good living and disposition, abiding within five miles of Slaugham, disposed to goe to the University of Oxford or Cambridge to learn, within seven years after his death, to have 6*s.* 8*d.* towards his school; and everie poor maiden to marrie, lacking friends, here abiding within the same distance, to have 6*s.* 8*d.* towards her marriage."

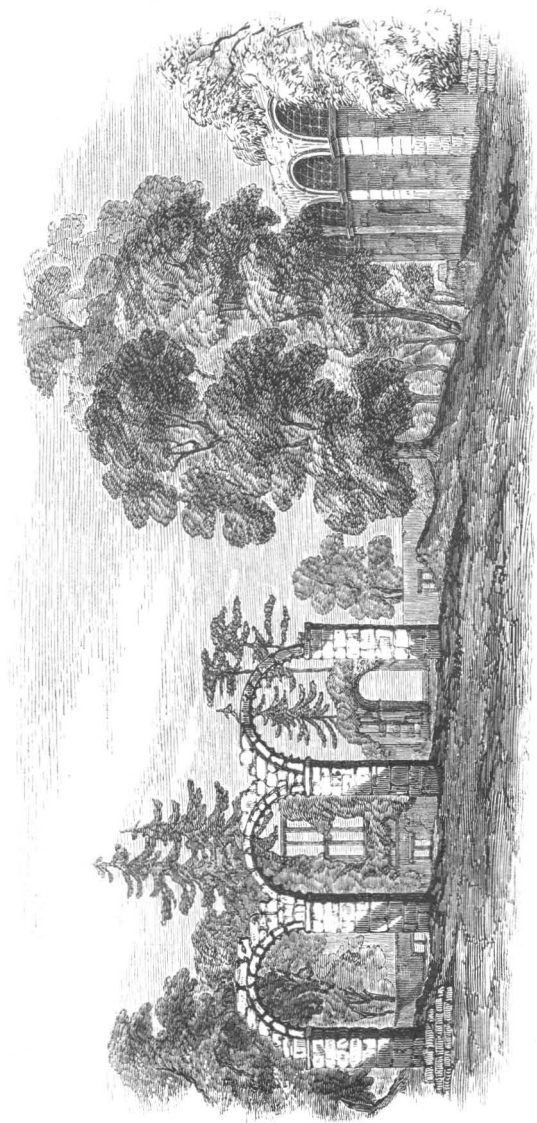
¹ See *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, Vol. V. pp. 39-49.

His son, John Covert, who died seized of the manor of Slaugham, by his will, proved March 20, 1503, directed his body to be buried in Slaugham chancel, where accordingly his brass monument is to be seen. It appears from the will that his widowed mother, Ann, had a jointure of £50 a year in land, and his own wife, Isabell, one of £30. Having no sons, he directed his cousin and heir Richard to pay 400 marcs to each of his three daughters, "if ruled in marriage by their mother and cousin; and if not, then 200 marcs, provided they be married to men of 100 marcs in land at the least, or such as have virtue and cunning which seemeth to their mother and cousin as good as 100 marcs worth in land." The result of these restrictions seems to have been, that the three ladies did not marry at all.

The successor Richard, by his will, proved Nov. 2, 1547, also desired to be buried in Slaugham chancel, in which his monument is still extant, recording his three former wives. This must have been put up by his widow, Blanche Vaughan, whose will, proved May 12, 1553, expressed her desire to be buried in Twyneham chancel, "if her son, John Covert, parson of Twyneham, will so grant." Her husband had left his granddaughter Jane, "300 marcs to her marriage, to be ruled in her marriage by Sir Edward Shelley, Justice of the Common Pleas."

John, son of Richard Covert, by a nuncupative will, proved March 9, 1559, made probably when lying on his deathbed at Boulogne, appears to have had ten baseborn children by his second wife, Ann Beard; and to each he directed small payments, bequeathing to his son and heir, Richard, by his first wife, Elizabeth Cooke, a chain of gold, a gold ring of his arms, and the residue of his property.

The situation of Slaugham Place is low, at the foot of the sloping hill on which the village and church stand. The buildings of the house itself occupied a space of 175 feet in length by 133 feet broad; but these were enclosed, in a manner unusual at the period of its construction, within a much larger area, confined by a square stone wall with turrets at the angles and on the sides, and an outside moat, which still retains some moisture on the south side, where the pier of a bridge across it remains opposite an open passage of the ruins. A large sheet of water, near at hand, was no doubt connected with the



SLAUGHAM—FROM THE EAST.

moat. The north wall was widened into a broad terrace of twenty feet, about 300 feet long, opposite to the most ornamented front of the house; and the whole ground, now occupied by fruit-trees and a rabbit-warren, was probably devoted to a garden, and the offices commonly placed near a mansion. The style of architecture was a rich graceful Palladian, and there are yet seen the decorated centres of the three principal fronts, or, rather, the lower stories of them. The south side, which abuts on the wall, was occupied at the south-west corner by the spacious kitchen, measuring thirty-five feet by twenty-five feet, having two fireplaces, one thirteen feet wide, separated by an oven from a second, which is seven feet wide, and by other passages and offices now gone. The plan seems to have comprised an interior square court of eighty feet; and on the west side are still considerable remains of a hall, fifty-four feet by twenty-three feet in dimensions, and of dwelling apartments



of two stories with bay-windows and stone mullions. Perhaps some portion may have belonged to an older and smaller house

previous to Sir Walter Covert's grander structure. The approach to the court through the centre of the west front, is very pleasing, from the perspective effect of two arches seen together. The outer one, which rises from two pilasters, and is vaulted by plain caissons, and a diamond drop in the centre is separated by semicircular recessed seats with a shell heading from the inner arch, of which a woodcut¹ is given. This is flanked by two half-columns, rusticated by broad bands at intervals, standing upon tall pedestals, and the vaulting is divided into triple rows of diamonded caissons with a central pendant. The opposite or eastern front has only preserved three semicircular arches resting on piers of a plain character, the inner vaults being adorned by square caissons with projecting diamonds. Perhaps these formed the face of a recess, or perforated colonnade of entrance on this side. The principal and most decorated front, however, was evidently on the north, and even in its now ruined state is strikingly majestic and picturesque.

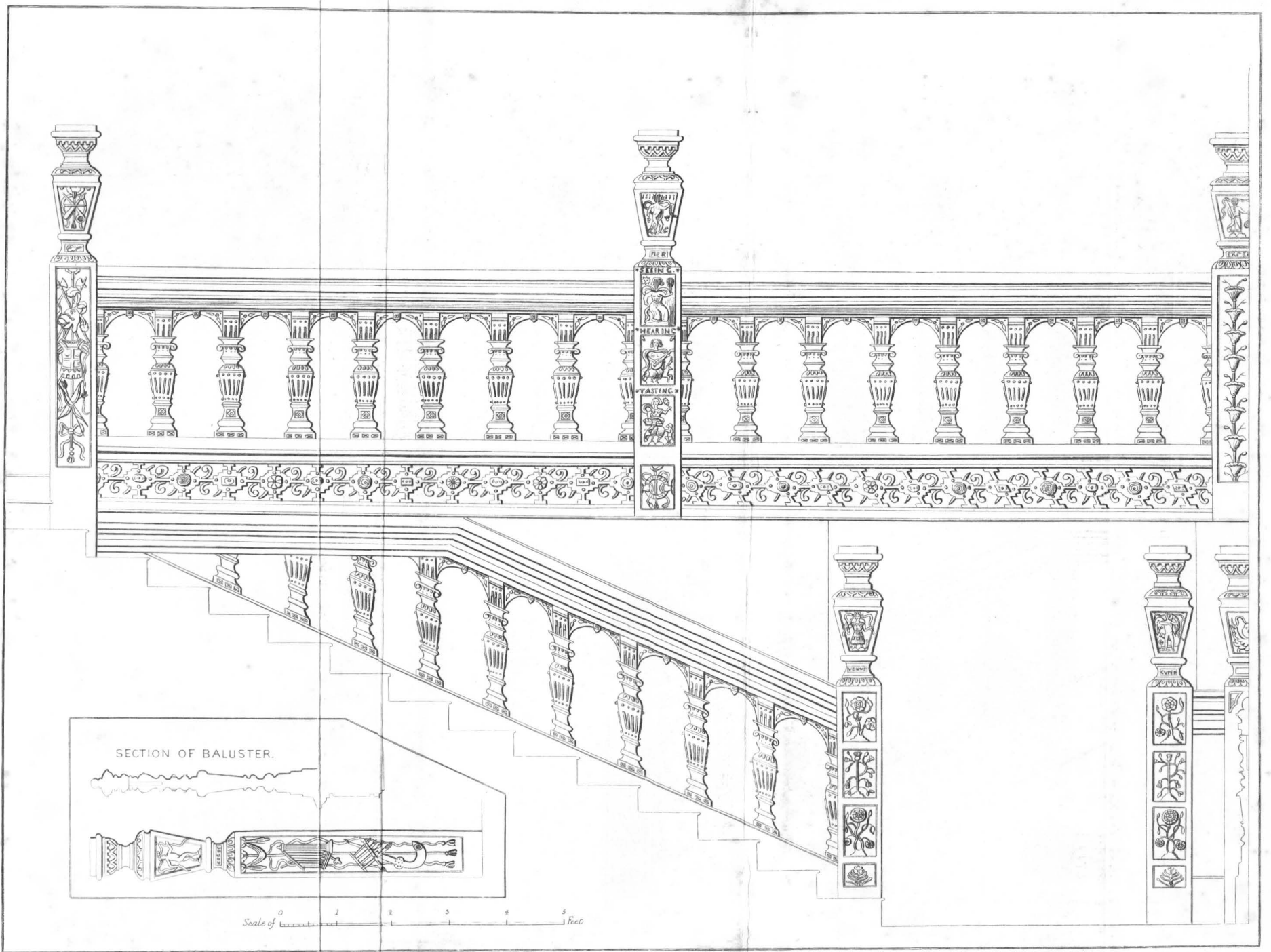
Four arches remain, of eight feet each, one of which, formerly the centre, advances six feet six inches, admitting in its breadth semicircular recessed niches with shell heads; and each pier, four feet broad, is relieved by fluted pilasters on tall pedestals. The style seems to be a Palladian approach to the Doric, with guttæ above the pilasters, and triglyphs over the keystones, but with no metopes in the frieze, which is, however, enriched profusely by an alternation of armorial shields with heraldic



double roses, and faces of greyhounds, so as to give something of the effect of the usual divisions of a Doric frieze. The spandrels also are used for the display of family blazonry. The inner vaulting of these arches is highly adorned, the smaller ones ones by three, the larger arch by eight, rows of diamonded panels of eight facets, with central drops and carved projecting keystones displaying

¹ This, and those of the small ornaments of the north front, are copied from S. H. Grimm's drawings taken, in 1787, Add. MSS. 5672, ff. 1 and 2, where views of the north front, of the ruins from the east, and of the west front, may be found. The

"Arms in the Remains of Slaughter Place" are also at f. 57 of Add. MS 5677. The north front, as before explained, is from a drawing of Mrs. F. Davies, kindly lent for the purpose. The one from the east, is from a drawing by Mrs. Blaauw.



NYNIAN H. LOWER. DEL.

W. J. ALAIS SC' 1

GRAND STAIRCASE OF SLAGHAM PLACE, NOW AT THE STAR HOTEL LEWES, MDCCCLVIII.

the leopard's face, which was the crest of the Coverts. These arches seem to have formed an open portico in front of the house, and, though opposite the garden terrace, and marking the most important side, do not appear to have been intended for the entrance of carriages. Modern architects would probably have placed this best front towards the south; but there seems to have been no appreciation



of the benefits of full sunshine among the builders of former times, when choosing the aspects of many of the great houses of Sussex; for Glynde, Danny, Wiston, &c., faced the east. When nearly all the house was pulled down in the last century, the carved oak staircase, which formed the grand communication to the upper rooms, was removed to Lewes, and, though somewhat maimed in its proportions, was put up in the Star Inn, where it still remains an object of admiration. The quaintly carved devices on its newels and friezes are very curious, and characteristic of its period. There are no means on the spot of determining what its position was at Slaugham. It has not hitherto been engraved, and the view of it now presented, from the careful drawing of Mr. Nynian Lower, will be gratefully welcomed.

The alliances of the Coverts may be studied in the numerous shields on the frieze and spandrels of the north front. The armorial bearings of the Coverts, "gules, a fesse ermine between three martlets or," of course appear in almost every coat impaled with some other.

On the partly deficient frieze of the first eastern arch, with double roses and greyhounds' faces, are two shields—one, Covert, impaling, "... on a chief three lioncels rampant;" the other, Covert impaling "... a fesse ermine," (Waleys). The two spandrels exhibit—1, "a fesse between six mascles," impaling "... a cross, in chief two cross-crosslets fitché;" and 2, "... three crescents, a canton ermine," (Cooke,) impaling, "... a fesse between six mascles."

The second arch has in its frieze alternate with roses and greyhounds' faces, four shields:—1, Covert, impaling "... on

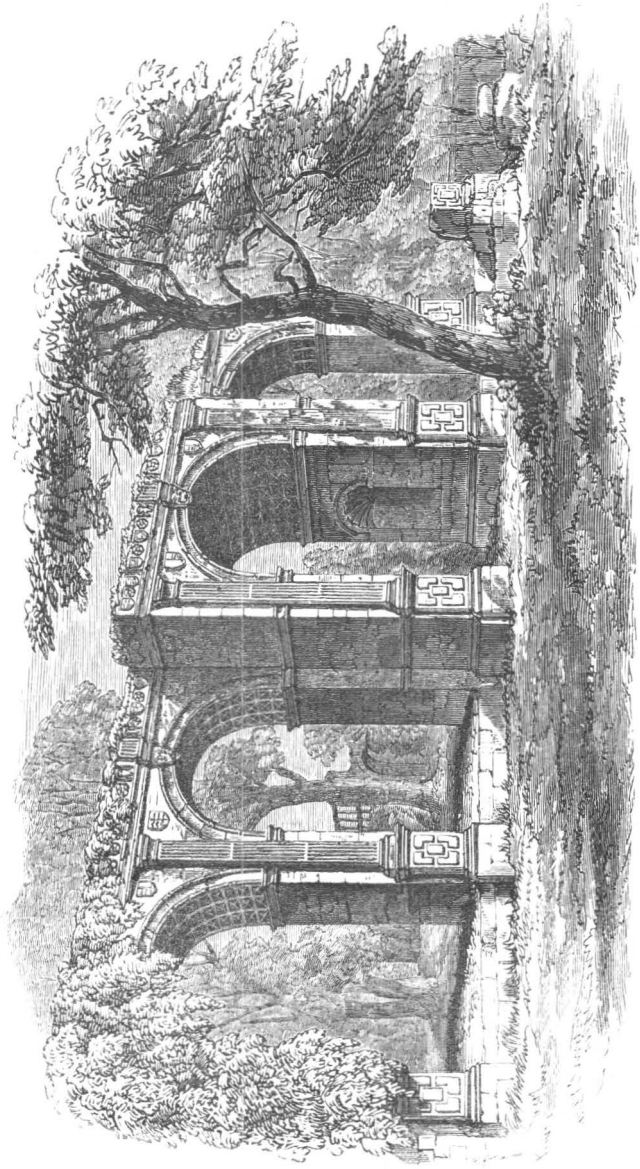
a chief three birds ;” 2, Covert, impaling “six lioncels, 3, 2, 1,” (Savage) ; 3, Covert, impaling “barry on a bend five annulets or plates ? (Pellett ?)” 4, . . . Covert, impaling “ermine a lion rampant,” (Poole). The two spandrels have—1, “three bars ermine” impaling Covert ; 2, “a cross patée between six cross-lets” impaling Covert.

The projecting arch, which was the centre, has its frieze defective ; but there remain on its eastern half :—1, Covert, impaling “. . . a crescent and a chief ;” 2, Covert, impaling “. . . three eagles displayed ;” 3, Covert, impaling “a fesse between three leopards’ faces ;” 4, Covert, impaling “. . . a pheon,” (Sydney). On the spandrels are “. . . fretty, a chief” impaling Covert, and “. . . three pelicans,” (Pelham) impaling Covert. The east and west sides of this projecting arch are also filled with coats : on the east, Covert, impaling “. . . three crescents, a canton,” (Cooke) ; and Covert, impaling “. . . an eagle displayed, on a chief two fleurs-de-lis.” On the west return of the arch, Covert impaling “Quarterly ; 1 and 4, . . . on a fesse three cinquefoils or fleurs-de-lis ?” 2, “Quarterly ; *i.* and *ii.*, a double-headed eagle displayed ; *iii.* and *iv.*, blank ; 3, “vairy.”

The arch to the west of the centre has only retained one of the shields of the frieze, Covert, impaling a coat of which only a crescent at base remains. The spandrels, however, are perfect, one bearing “a lion rampant crowned,” impaling Covert ; the other, “a chevron between three annulets,” (Goring) impaling Covert.

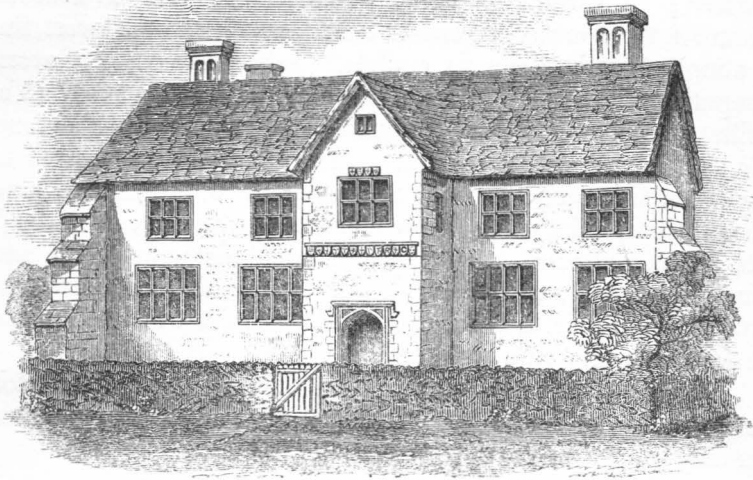
Another arch to the west remained in Grimm’s time, though now gone. On the spandrels were “two chevrons” impaling Covert, and “paly” impaling Covert.

This catalogue of shields would be a sufficient proof of the fondness of the Coverts for the display of heraldry ; but there is another example extant of the same feeling, at a small house situated on the sloping hill above an old manor-house, called “Benfield,” in the parish of Hangleton, which may fairly be added. Early in the fourteenth century the manor was held by a family named Benfield ; and in the Subsidy Roll of 1412 we also find John Benyfeld having the manors of Hangleton worth £22 a year, and of Twineham worth £18. It has not been traced when or how this passed into the possession of



SLAUGHAM—NORTH FRONT.

the Coverts, but John Covert died seized of the manor of Hangleton in A.D. 1503.



It is a small building of flints, with plinth and coigns of brick, with a frontage of sixty-six feet, all very much in decay. The window frames, doorway, and the carved entablature of the porch, are of stone. The old door inside the porch remains, divided into small panels of oak, with mouldings springing from roses at the sides. In the woodcut, copied from James Lambert junior's drawing in 1782 (Add. MSS. 5677, f. 41), a long line of armorial shields will be seen over the porch, and a few more over the window above. Many of these are the same coats as at Slaugham; and, as they are now much dilapidated and indistinct, some record of them should be taken. Over the window were four shields:—1, Covert, impaling "a pheon," (Sydney); 2, two cinquefoils in chief, a crescent in base," impaling Covert; 3, Covert impaling "ermine, three feathers, on chief a bird, apparently a swan or goose;" 4, the date 1611.

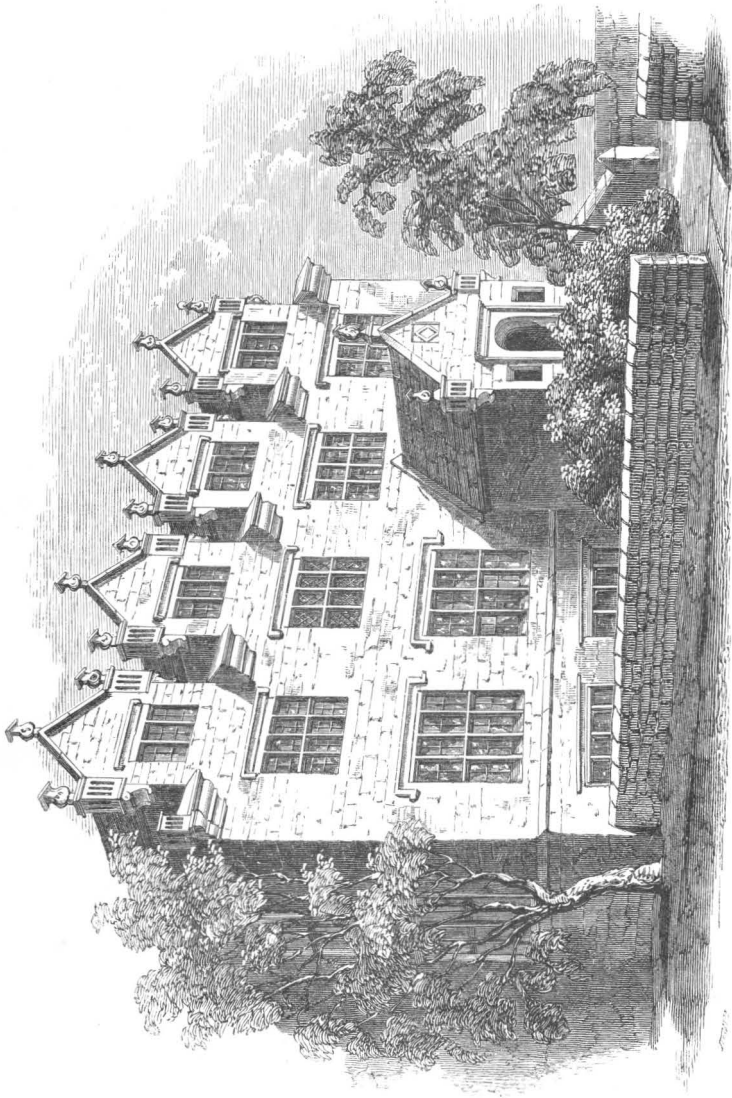
Across the whole of this projecting part of the building, about twelve feet broad, runs a row of shields, which now looks a strange mockery, found as it is on the ruinous cottages of

some labourers :—1, the Covert arms, now missing ; 2, Covert, impaling “a fess between three leopards’ faces ;” 3, Covert, impaling “barry, over all a bend, on a chief three bezants ?” 4, Covert, impaling “a chevron between three animals’ (?) heads erased ;” 5, Covert, impaling “quarterly, 1 and 4, a cross, 2 and 3, three crescents, and on a canton a bird ?” 6, Covert, impaling “a fess between six mullets,” (Ashburnham) ; 7, Covert, impaling “quarterly, (1) a saltire charged with a rose” (Neville), (2) checquy, a chief, (3) quarterly, *i.* and *iv.*, two chevrons, *ii.* and *iii.*, ermine, a bend or saltire, (4) on a fesse a crescent between six cross-crosslets ; 8, is effaced ; 9, appears to have been Covert, impaling “a chevron between three garbs ;” 10, 12, the letters R. C. ; 11, Covert, impaling “quarterly, *i.* and *iv.*, paly bendy, *ii.* and *iii.*, a saltire engrailed between four roses ? on a chief a quadruped ?” 13, the crest of the Coverts, a leopard’s face on a wreath.

So many of the arms sculptured at Slaugham and Hangleton are now indistinct in outline, that the above account of them is only offered as an imperfect list of them.

The old Elizabethan stone mansion of Gravetye, in the parish of West Hoathly, retains much of its ancient appearance, as when built at the close of the sixteenth century, with its broad mullioned windows and terraced garden. Its series of tall dormer windows grotesquely breaking up into fragments its ponderous cornice, and the Doric triglyphs supported on corbels, and upholding pinnacles at the angles, give the architecture a very peculiar character. The stone porch has the initials H. F. on it ; and in the spandrels of the west door are the initials R. I. and K. I., all relating to the family of Infield, who, for a brief period, possessed the property. The ceiling of the hall is ornamented with a number of devices in stucco :—a ram’s head erased ; an oak-leaf, with acorn, as a crest ; a bunch of grapes, with vine-leaves ; a rose, with leafy branch ; a pelican vulning itself. An iron chimney-back, in the hall, exhibits again the same initials, “*R. I., an^o Do. 1598, K. I.*”

The family name seems to have been gradually changed from Hanningfield to Infield. According to the information of W. Smith Ellis, Esq.—who has kindly supplied other notices



GRAVETYE, IN WEST HOATHLY.

—in the Subsidy Roll (printed in our Vol. IX. p. 87), the family of Infield was descended from the Haningfields, of Haningfield, in Essex, one of whom bore for his arms, “or, a chevron sable,” and was at the battle of Boroughbridge, in the time of Edward II. A knight’s fee was held in 1350, in the manor of Sheffield, in Lingfield, Surrey, by William de Inningfield and Nicholas de Malmeyns; and, in 1351, William de Inningfield died seized of a property there, leaving Adam his son and heir, aged twenty-four. We find the name again in 1437, when Elizabeth Inningfield released all her rights in Lingfield to William; and, in 1483, William de Inningfield held a tenement in Lingfield, called “Le Lynde Place.”

At the death of James Infield, in 1596, it was proved that he died holding certain messuages in Lingfield. He appears to have been succeeded by Richard Infield, who built the house. (Manning and Bray’s *Surrey*, ii. pp. 282, 284, 351.) It appears from the tombstones in West Hoathly Church, that Richard Infield married “Catherine, daughter of the right worshipful Edward Culpeper, of Wakehurst, Kt.” She died Oct. 16, 1623, and he on March 11, 1624. “Richard Infield, of Gravetye, gent.,” probably their son, appears to have married Catherine Compton, and their eldest daughter, Agnes, who died September 1685, aged thirty-nine, seems to have carried the property to her husband Henry Faulconer, son of Infield Faulconer, Esq.; and this explains the initials of H. F. on the porch.
