

NOTE ON TWO DRAWINGS BY JOHN EVELYN  
OF WOTTON HOUSE IN 1640.

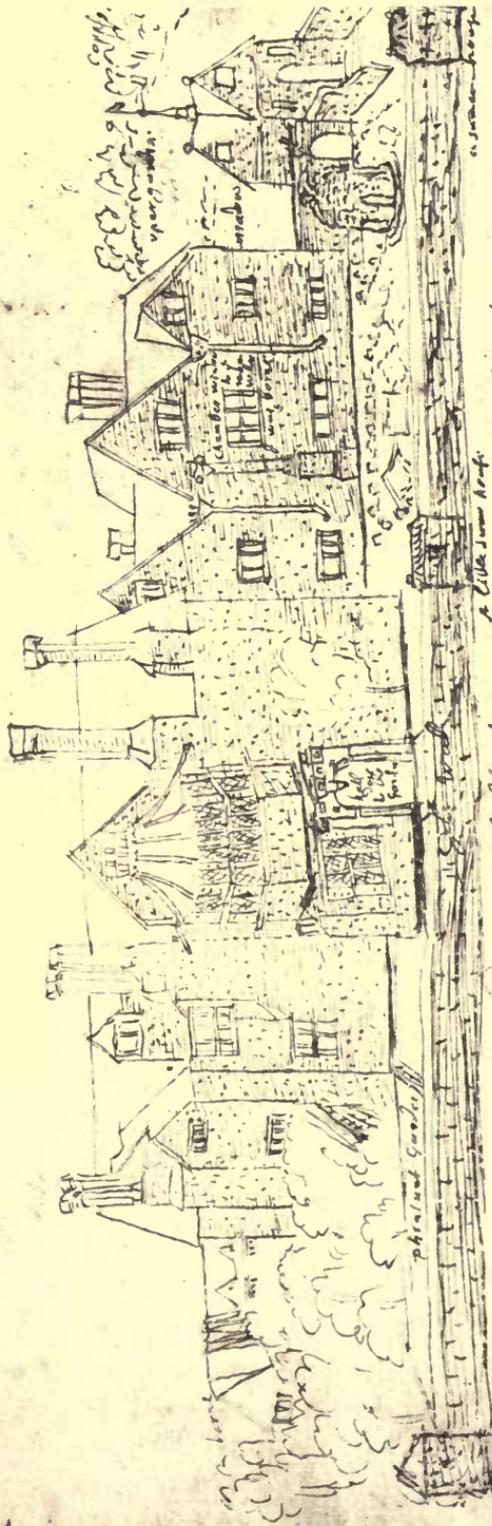
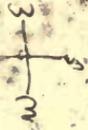
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BY the courtesy of their owner, our member Mr. W. J. Evelyn, F.S.A., we are enabled to present here reproductions of two original drawings of Wotton House, made by the celebrated John or "Sylva" Evelyn. In all there were six of these drawings, but one of them has for long been missing. The remaining five, together with a reproduction made some time ago of the missing one, have been placed in a frame by their present owner, and were seen by our members on their visit to Wotton House in July, 1901.

The two drawings here given both bear the date 1640. Over the first of the two Evelyn has written, "A Rude draught of Wotton Garden before my Bro: altered it and as it was 1640: South." In the foreground of this sketch there are notes of the later alterations made in the grounds; "There a mount of trees," and behind "Here now is y<sup>e</sup> fountain." Below this is the moat with "water," which is more graphically indicated on the second drawing, twice written across it. Three small buildings are shown under the wall on the opposite bank. That to the extreme right is "a sūmer house," whilst the one in the centre is apparently "a little swan house." Two swans are drawn swimming in the moat in the second sketch. Perhaps the most interesting of the notes are the words Evelyn has written around one of the windows in the east wing of the house, "Chamber window to y<sup>e</sup> room wher I was borne."

In his *Diary* John Evelyn tells us that he returned to Wotton on May 20, 1640, with his brother George, who was married at Albury, on the 28th of that month, to

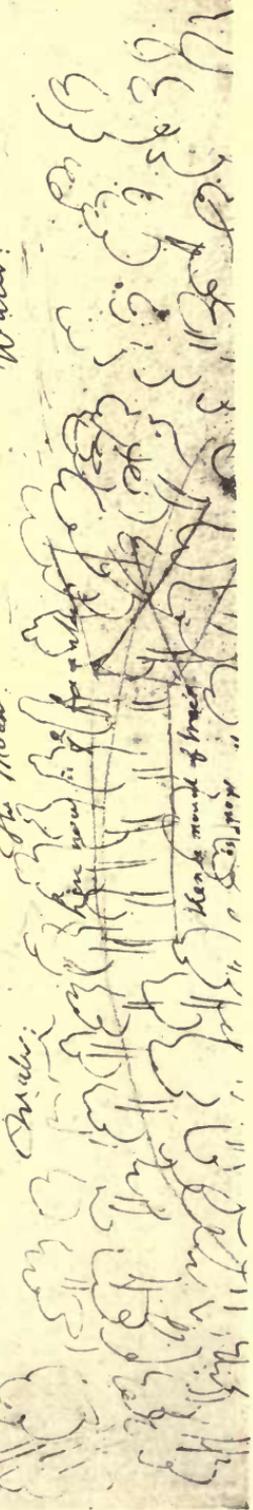
A Bird's eye view of  
 the town of New York  
 as it was in 1624. South.



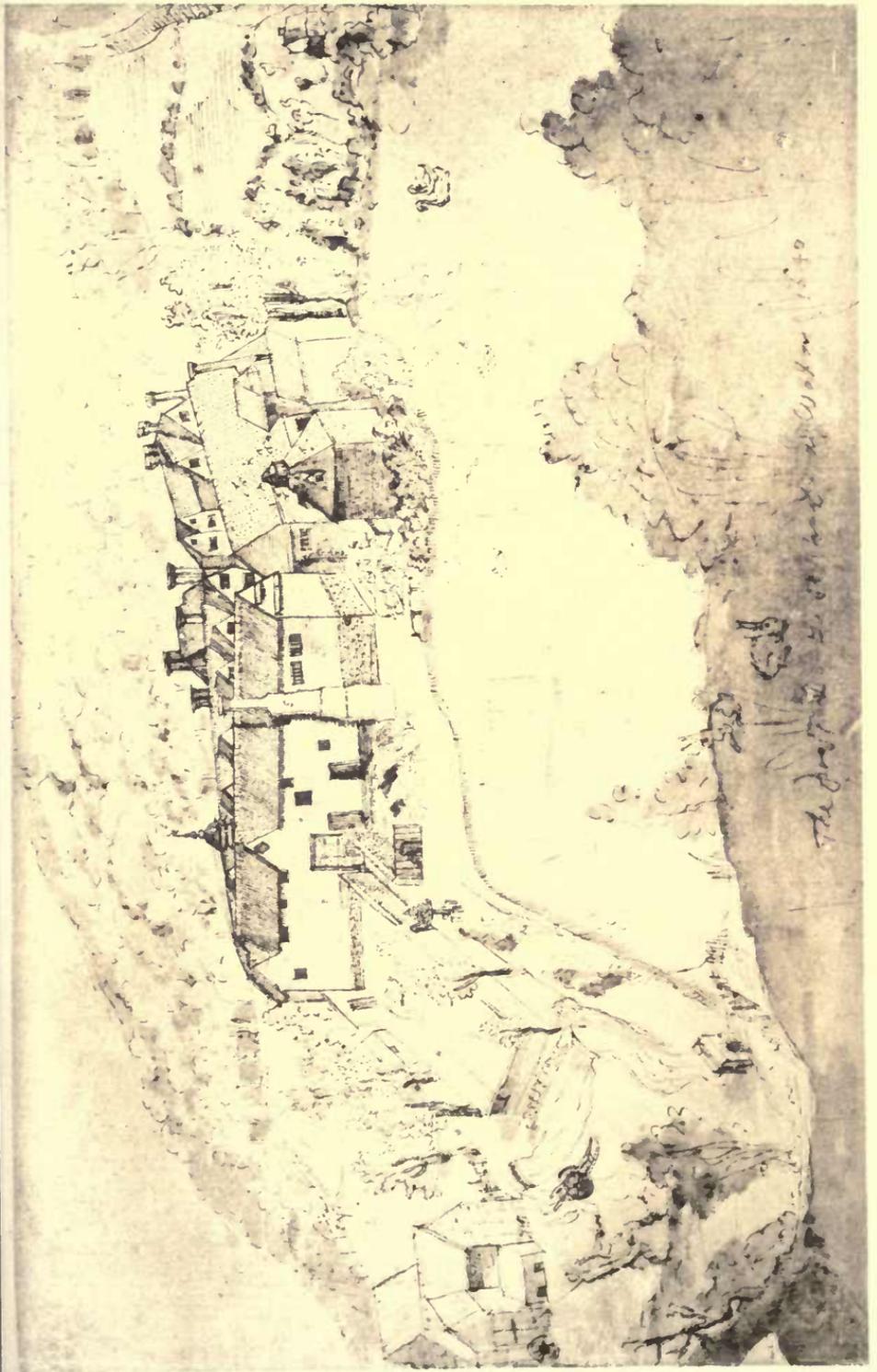
Water:

The Rocks:

Drains:



the mouth of the  
 river



The Great Hall of the Monastery 1840

Miss Caldwell. He seems to have remained there until June 10 following, and it was probably between these two dates that the drawings were made. He does not seem to have been again at Wotton that year until December when his father died. George Evelyn, the diarist's brother, then became owner of Wotton, and he it was who made the alterations to which John Evelyn refers. John was a frequent visitor to Wotton during his brother's lifetime, and indeed seems to have been allowed no small freedom there. In 1643, he records in his *Diary* that he returned to Wotton from London, after having seen "the furious and zealous people demolish that stately Cross in Cheapside . . . . Resolving to possess myselfe in some quiet, if it might be, in a time of so great jealousy, I built by my Brother's permission a *study*, made a *fishpond*, an island, and some other solitudes and retirements, at Wotton, which gave the first occasion of improving them to those water-works and gardens which afterwards succeeded them."

On the death in 1699 of George Evelyn without surviving issue, Wotton descended to John Evelyn, who held it until his death in February 170<sup>5</sup>/<sub>6</sub>, when he was buried in the church of the parish.

The drawings are here reproduced in collotype from photographs taken by Messrs. Walker and Cockerell.

EDITOR.