

these chambers were rarely glazed, and that their windows were closed with bars, lattices, or shutters. The relationship of the great apartment to the kitchens was such as has been described, and Necham, who wrote in the time of Henry II. or Richard I., said there should be a porch beside the vestibule, and also a courtyard. The great private apartment, or lord's room, was commonly known as the "solar," and was behind the hall, generally raised upon the walls of a storeroom or cellar. The approach was by a staircase, which in early times was



*WOLFETON HOUSE: THE SPANISH CHIMNEY-PIECE.*

external to the structure. The solar had a handsome fireplace, very often beneath an arch, and excellent examples of the style still remain. As time went on other apartments were added, and it appears certain that in large castles domestic buildings of wood stood in the enclosed court, apart from the defensive buildings, but with an easy approach to the strong tower, or keep, to which the inhabitants could resort in time of need. This arrangement can be traced very clearly at that most interesting remain, Stokesay Castle, near Ludlow.

It must not be supposed that these early dwelling-places were devoid of comfort or adornment. Illuminated manuscripts show that they were hung with tapestry, and that there was much beauty in the hammered iron fittings of their doorways. The roof of the hall was lofty, with much architectural elaboration of its structural features, and with carved figures of angels or heraldic achievements on the brackets and bosses. The ladies in their "bower" plied their needles in the work of their rich embroidery, and, as time progressed, greater comforts were

brought in, with much adornment of fine needlework. Some of the tapestry was of home manufacture, but a great deal of it came from abroad, and it took the name of Arras from the place where much of it was made. Necham, whom we have mentioned, even censures the increasing luxury of his early time. He tells how a bedroom should be ordered—the walls well curtained, near the bed a chair, and at its foot a bench; on the bedstead a feather bed and a bolster, there being a short sheet and a handsome cloth for the pillow, with a sheet of sendel or silk, or of linen, and a blanket over it, and covering all a counterpane of green or yew-coloured stuff, bordered with skins of cat, beaver, or marten. It was customary for ladies to receive their visitors of both sexes in their bedrooms, this, at least, in the earliest times, being the only large apartment, save the great hall itself.

There followed, however, rapid changes in the order of domestic life. Mathew Paris describes a house erected by one Paulin Peyvre, at Toddington, which, even in the reign of

Henry III., provoked the wonder of beholders, for it had its hall, chapel, bed-chambers, and other buildings all covered with lead, and, near by, orchards, and fish-ponds, in the building and preparation of which abode the men were engaged for many years at high wages. This is an indication of progress in the direction both of comfort and security. From the time of Edward I. onward, when there began a brilliant and flourishing period of English history, the building of houses went on everywhere, and the existing remains are even now numerous,