



*SYDENHAM HOUSE: THE STAIRWAY.*

to walls within and without, and adorn ceilings and cornices with much rich modelling in plaster. There had, however, arisen a native body of workers in brick, whose greatest triumphs were in the splendid houses of East Anglia, the finest example of all being the grand tower at Layer Marney.

So far as we can tell, the old system continued in which the craftsmen took their direction from a master builder, who was in effect the architect. The owner would outline

his requirements, and the master builder, working upon established principles, would carry them out, entrusting various parts of the work to experienced artisans, who were in possession of designs, but who, at the same time, possessed a great fund of originality. The spirit of spontaneity, which had enabled the mediæval workman to give the impress of a feeling of beauty to everything he touched, whether a crocket carved in stone, a moulding high upon an arch, a hinge fashioned in iron, or a shield of arms painted on