

snowdrops and other spring flowers, the grapes and various fruits, and the dead poultry and game, possess extraordinary fidelity to their originals. We can readily understand how John Evelyn, filled with the love of Nature, delighted in the carver's reproduction of natural things. There are two schools of thought upon the matter, and some will love the conventional despite all the naturalistic triumphs of Gibbons. But none can fail to appreciate his wonderful

and inimitable skill. What a picture it is, that of John Evelyn discovering him at his work in his little room in old Deptford, or bringing his friends to behold it. It was Evelyn's admiration, as we have shown, that founded the fame of Gibbons.

Grinling Gibbons had followers and imitators, but perhaps only one approached him in skill. There has been much dispute as to whether the famous carvings at Chatsworth were



*THE ARCHES AND CARVINGS OF THE CHAPEL GALLERY,*