



FRUIT AND FLOWERS BY GIBBONS IN THE TAPESTRY-ROOM.

his work or that of the local artist, Samuel Watson. Allan Cunningham says, "The birds seem to live, the foliage to shoot, the flowers to expand beneath your eye," just as they do at Belton, and as they might be expected to do in the work of Grinling Gibbons. And yet all documentary evidence goes to show that Watson was busily employed, and makes no mention of Gibbons, though many refuse to believe that any other hand than his could have wrought the marvels. At Heanor, a few miles from Belper, is

a curious epitaph of Watson, seeming to imply that he had been neglected by Faine. It deserves to be quoted here :

"Watson has gone, whose skilful art displayed
To the very life, whatever Nature made.
View but his wondrous works in Chatsworth Hall,
Which are so gazed at and admired by all;
You'll say 'tis pity he should hidden be,
And nothing said to revive his memory.
'My mournful friends, forbear your tears,
For I shall rise when Christ appears!'"

Therefore, perhaps, the name of Watson