

its traditions. When Sir Robert Langley died in 1560, his daughter and heiress, Ann, carried the estate to William Dautesey, her husband, a member of an old Wiltshire family, of whom a portrait, attributed to Holbein, hangs in the great hall at Agecroft. Thus the house passed to a family which long continued to reside therein. It came by female descent to the Rev. Richard Buck, and his brother John, who became owner of the estate, adopted in 1867 the name of Dautesey. His kinsman, the present owner, has also adopted the name, and thus the heritage of the Langleys is maintained.

beautiful and elaborate. There is a panelled ceiling, and rich dark oak wainscot, with attractive carvings.

The drawing-room is a light and beautiful chamber, with the admirable carved panellings which have been referred to. Here again is more of the splendid old oak, grouped with lyre-backed chairs, and other features of a later date. The breaking of style has a rather happy effect, and the aspect of the room is both comfortable and reposeful. The bedrooms are not less remarkable. Thus the green room has a very magnificent bedstead of rich, curious, and attractive style,



*THE INGLE-NOOK.*

Within, the venerable character is preserved in the mullioned windows, the ancient panelling, the fine wainscot, the old fireplaces, and the oaken ceilings, and most of all, perhaps, in the remarkable carved panels in the drawing-room, which go back to the time of Henry VII. or somewhat earlier. There is cheery warmth from the capacious fireplaces, and the aspect of friendly companionship in the chambers. The principal apartment is the great hall, which has undergone changes, but is a particularly fine example of old and curious work. The carved furniture, mostly of Jacobean date, is extremely fine, and all the fittings are both

elaborately carved and adorned; and the same chamber is furnished with magnificent armoires, and carved cabinets of rare and singular beauty. Louder still does another room speak of older times. There the great carved bedstead is earlier, and the walls and cabinets were even more richly worked by the old craftsman's hand. All appears to be in the style of Elizabeth or the Stuarts, though structurally, doubtless, the place is older. Few timber houses like Agecroft Hall are so well preserved, and long may it continue as an example of an old English dwelling-place, surviving with character little changed from ancient to existing times!