

THE VYNE, BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE.

THIS "poor house" of The Vyne, as its builder, the first Lord Sandys, described it in some of his letters, lying in the pleasant county of Hants, is rich in historic memories, architectural interests, and beauty and variety of internal adornments. Many Royal and eminent personages have sojourned within its walls, and great events and gay ceremonies have been witnessed by its ancient and stately chambers. The name is of high antiquity, for the place is called "Vynnes" in a deed of 1268,

still preserved in the house. The situation is picturesque and interesting, for the house was erected just where the chalk hills of central Hampshire break into the sylvan vale of the Loddon, and it stands in its hundred acres, of hill, dale, wood, and water, some three miles north of Basingstoke, with not a few magnificent oaks for its companions.

The estate came to the family of its builder through the marriage, in 1386, of Sir John Sandys with the heiress of the Fyffhydes. The

first Lord Sandys, some time before he was raised to the peerage, upon coming into possession, finding The Vyne "no very great or sumptuous manor place, only contained within the moat, so translated it and augmented it, and besides builded a fair base court, that it became one of the most princely houses in goodly building in all Hampshire." The builder married the niece of Sir Reginald Bray, K.G., the great Tudor architect, who designed the Henry VII. Chapel at Westminster, and it is, perhaps, not hazardous to surmise, since Sir Reginald Bray lived until 1503, that The Vyne may have owed something to his hand.

The work was begun in the later years of Henry VII., and completed early in the reign of his successor. The house is of red brick, with the characteristic diaper, and has stone quoins and battlements. Its windows were



THE BILLIARD-ROOM.