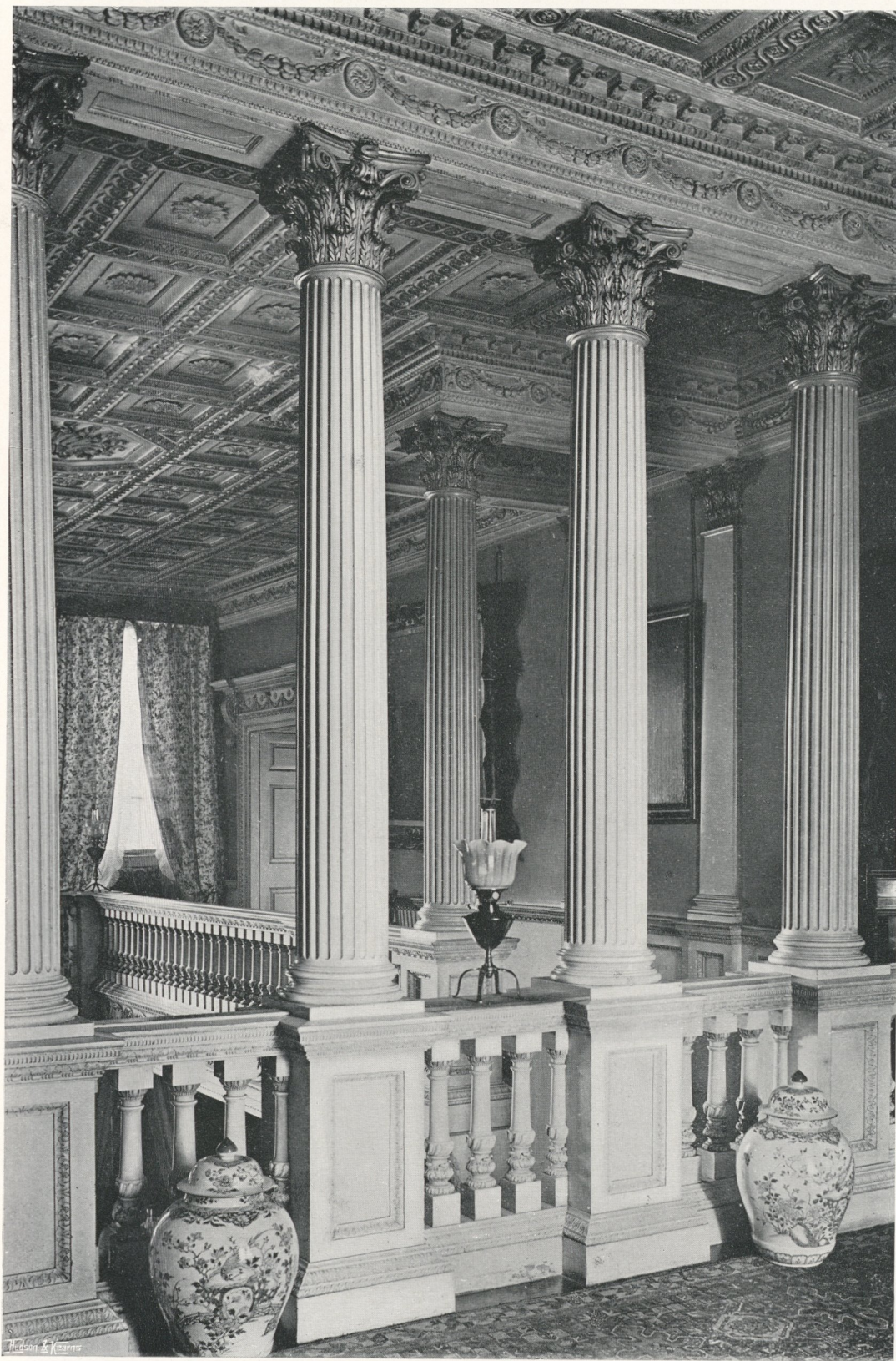


After the divorce of Catherine of Aragon and the religious upheaval that followed, Sandys withdrew from the Court and lived in retirement. Henry, however, was not alienated, and with his new wife went to The Vyne in October, 1535; and on the outbreak in the North, Sandys appeared at the Privy Council. Upon his death, he was buried in the chapel of the Holy

and plate were sent to The Vyne from the Tower and Hampton Court to enable Sandys to entertain the Frenchmen worthily, while the neighbouring gentlemen lent seven score of beds and much furniture. The Queen was installed at Basing House, the Marquess of Winchester's place, but spent much time at The Vyne.

Henry Lord Sandys, an ardent Royalist in the Civil War, was mortally wounded in a fight at Bramdean, near Alresford, and died in April, 1644. Meanwhile, in the preceding November, Sir William Waller had installed his troopers at The Vyne, when Sir Ralph Hopton was attempting to relieve Basing House, then heavily besieged. Misfortunes and impoverishment overtook the house of Sandys, and William, the next lord, with broken fortunes, sold the manor, and on his death in 1688 the barony fell into abeyance.

The purchaser was Chaloner Chute, an eminent lawyer in his time, who had been very successful at the Bar, and was Treasurer of the Middle Temple in 1639. He twice represented Middlesex in Parliament, and was elected Speaker of the House of Commons in 1659. The French Ambassador described him as "one of the most celebrated lawyers in the nation," and Sir Arthur Hazelrigg looked upon him as "the greatest man in England." He died in April, 1659, as his monument at The Vyne says, "in the service of his arduous post, to the regret of all parties." This monument, which is in the Tomb Chamber, is one of the best works of Thomas Banks, R.A., and was erected later by John Chute, the friend of Walpole. The Speaker effected great alterations at



THE ENTRANCE HALL GALLERY.

Ghost at Basingstoke, which he had greatly adorned.

His house passed to three of his descendants in succession, and his grandson William, the third lord, was visited by Elizabeth in 1569 and 1601. The Duke de Biron, Ambassador of Henry IV., came to The Vyne to discuss with Elizabeth the designs of the House of Austria, having with him nearly 400 gentlemen and attendants, and hangings

The Vyne. He removed the base court, built the Grecian portico, and substituted sashes for the mullioned windows. His architect was John Webb, the pupil and executor, and connection by birth and marriage, of Inigo Jones, and the old brickwork of the time is excellent.

Mr. John Chute, who succeeded to the estate on the death of his brother Anthony in 1754, was a man of cultivated intellect and refined taste, who