



THE DRAWING-ROOM.

From this good soldier descended the Wallers of Southampton and Beaconsfield.

Sir Thomas Waller, Lieutenant of Dover Castle in the time of James I., was the last of the Groombridge Wallers. He alienated the estate to Thomas Sackville, Earl of Dorset, Lord Treasurer, and it afterwards passed by sale, apparently in the reign of James I., to John Packer, Esq., Clerk of the Privy Seal, who re-erected the chapel at Groombridge in gratitude for Prince Charles's return from Spain. His son Philip was the builder of the present

house at Groombridge, and it grew under his hands into the quaint and pleasing edifice which remains, called by Evelyn, its owner's friend, "a modern Italian villa." The ancient moat was spanned by bridges, and the loggia, or porch, with its Ionic pillars, pediment, and balustrade, adds to the beautiful old structure something of the taste of Italy. Mr. Philip Packer, indeed, produced a mansion of rather original character, and we must commend the judgment he displayed. He built upon a site which John Evelyn did not approve, but