

while the dais is at the other end, and still has the great oak table at which the lord and his family dined in ancient days, and at which the late Duke of Rutland entertained the King and Queen, when Prince and Princess of Wales, at luncheon a few years ago. Behind the Hall are the private Dining Room, and the beautiful Drawing Room above, from whose windows there are delightful views down the course of the Wye. Both are wainscoted with beautiful oak—the Dining Room with carved enrichments, the initials of the builder and his wife, the Royal arms, the device of Edward, Prince of Wales, and the motto

extends along the southern side, and has glorious bays which command superb views of the garden and landscape. There is extreme quaintness, beauty, and attractiveness in the architecture externally. The Long Gallery is entered by remarkable segmental steps of solid oak, and is richly panelled and characteristically adorned, deriving much character from its bold bays and enriched ceiling. At the further end is a doorway leading into the buildings which form the uppermost or eastern side of the mansion, where is the Anteroom, with “Dorothy Vernon’s Steps,” which lead down to the lovely terrace. The



*THE GREAT BAY IN THE LONG GALLERY.*

“Drede God and Honor the Kyng,” and the Drawing Room with much elaborate plaster-work. The kitchen, on the other side of the lobby, is approached by a sloping passage, and has a vast fireplace and ancient culinary appliances, while the buttery, wine-cellar, and sundry offices are closely adjacent.

This range of buildings, including the Hall and kitchen, forms the lower or western side of the second or upper courtyard, which, like the other, is surrounded by structures of exceeding quaintness, wherein are several tapestried and panelled rooms. The magnificent Long Gallery or ballroom, a chief splendour of the place,

finest view of the whole range of buildings is gained from the lofty Eagle, or Peveril, Tower, on the higher level of the eastern side, which commands also a great prospect of the valley of the Wye.

Towards the end of the twelfth century Haddon passed to the Vernons by the marriage of Richard de Vernon with Avicia, a daughter of William de Avenell, who had possessed it under the King.

It was this first Vernon of Haddon who surrounded his mansion with a curtain wall for protection against the unruly, and his authority to build it is still in the possession of the Duke