

narrow passages leading to grand and stately apartments. The tapestry is almost as famous as the windows, and clothes the walls with great richness. The interior of the house is in some respects unusual. There are very wide stone stairs, and plaster and stone walls, and the floors also are of stone or concrete, but are covered with plaited rush matting, so that they are silent to the tread. The great size of the windows gives the interior a pleasant and lightsome aspect. The panelling and woodwork are of the best, although plain, and there is comparatively little carving; but some of the doors are painted in characteristic fashion. Plaster reliefs, such as are seen in the chapel, are common in the house, and over one is the date 1588, other plaster-work being dated 1597. The wonder of the tapestry has been



*TAPESTRY ON THE STAIRCASE.*

referred to. It covers the walls in nearly every room, excepting one side only of the Green Room. Even the staircases are thus clothed.

The State Apartment, or Presence Chamber, is 65ft. long by about 31ft. in width, exclusive of the large recess; a peculiar frieze surrounding the room is 11ft. deep, and the effect is very imposing and attractive. The adornment is unusual, and represents in one part Diana and her attendants hunting, with very curious animals, including stags, lions, elephants, and some that are nondescript. There are also men bear-hunting with dogs and spears. Magnificent furniture is in the room, and there is a noble fireplace, with strapwork ornamentation over it, and the Royal arms. The pictures are of Queen Elizabeth, Queen Mary, Sir William Cavendish, Elizabeth



*THE GREAT STAIRCASE.*