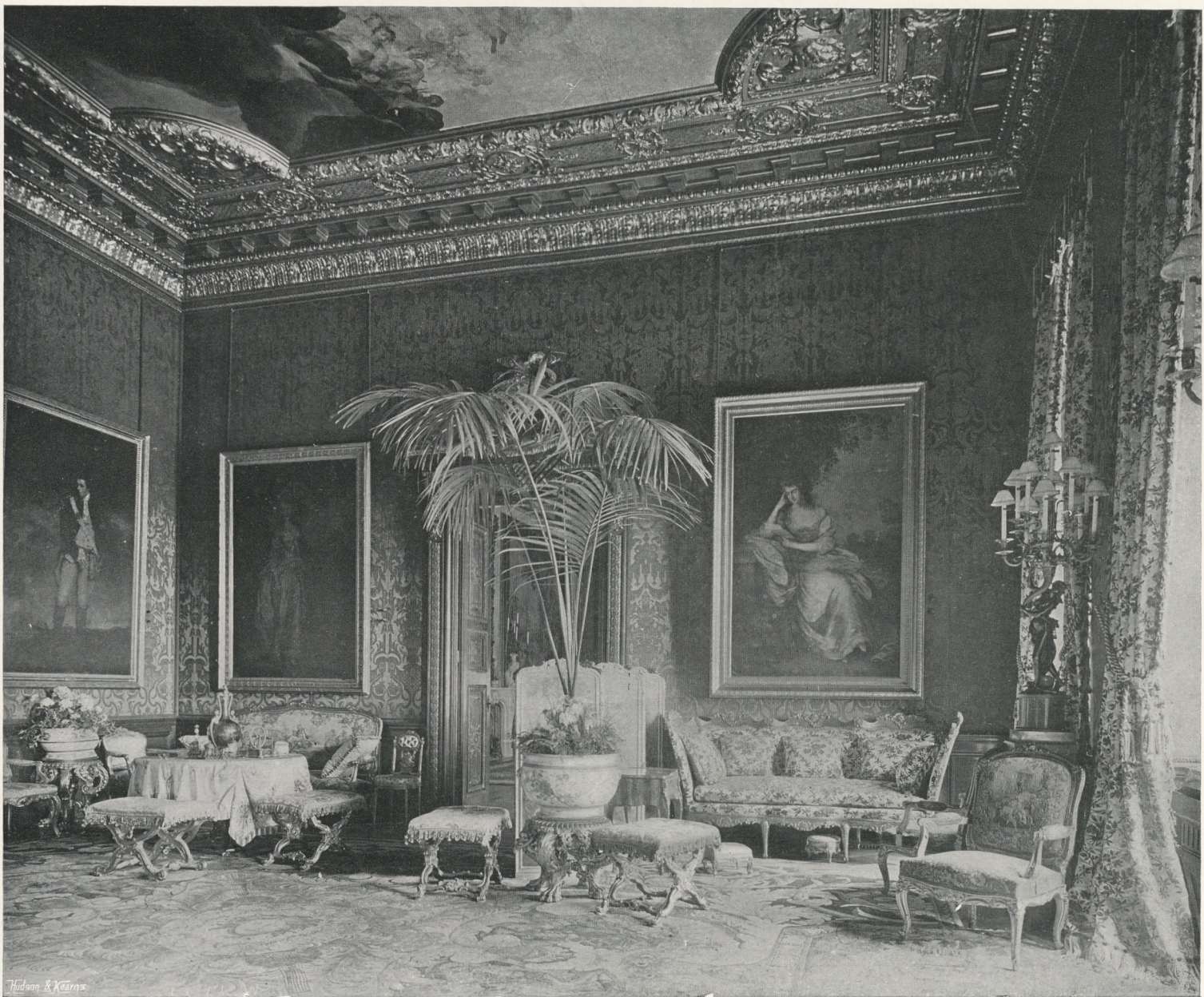


WADDESDON MANOR, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THIS beautiful house was entirely the creation of one very gifted man, the late Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, singularly equipped with inherited and acquired judgment in matters of art, who caused it to be built in the style in which his matured taste found most satisfaction. He has left recorded in his private notes what may be called the personal story of the building of the house, setting out in simple and reflective style the pleasures and pains, the successes and disappointments, of this unique addition to the domestic architecture of England. It was a journey through Touraine, made many years before with his sister, the present mistress of Waddesdon, Miss Alice de Rothschild, which made him resolve that if ever

he did build a house, it should be one in the style of the French Renaissance. In that splendid old province the châteaux of France left by Renaissance exceed in size, richness of fancy, and general splendour of design those of any other part of the Continent. It was also, perhaps, a determining factor in his choice that it was for the interiors and decoration of such houses that the masterpieces of French art which he possessed in great number, and particularly prized, were designed—not only pictures, but porcelain, furniture, mirrors, and other objects, which the creation of a French Renaissance château would, with care, place again in their proper surroundings. He did not intend to rival the Touraine houses in size, though by



THE RED DRAWING-ROOM.