

our standards Waddesdon would be judged a very large place. "Chambord," he notes, "has 450 rooms. Waddesdon is a pigmy beside it." His architect stated that in his experience people always began by building too small, and this Baron Ferdinand found to be the case.

In 1874 Baron Ferdinand bought from the Duke of Marlborough 2,700 acres, to which he added 500 more, about five miles from Aylesbury, on some rather steep hills, with wide views over the pleasing stretch of scenery—woods, hills, valleys, and meadows—of that part of Bucking-

hamshire. Except for its height and the view, the ground had few natural attractions. There was no house, and where now there are pools, lawns, trees, and cascades on the hill, and a nicely-wooded park below, there was "not a bird or a bush." The top of the hill had to be taken off and levelled, roads made to the summit, and water brought from fourteen miles away in the Chilterns.

Having chosen the French style, Baron Ferdinand went to Paris to find an architect, judging that French architects have more



*THE DINING-ROOM.*