

GRIMSTHORPE, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE most ancient part of the present structure of the Earl of Ancaster's Lincolnshire seat is the tower at the south-eastern angle, which is said to have been built as a watch-tower in the reign of King John, to keep guard over the fen country, though upon that point no certainty can be felt. About half a mile away stood the Cistercian Abbey of Vaudey, a corruption of Vallis Dei, founded by William Earl of Albemarle, and the present fish-ponds and red deer-park are the survival of those monastic times. On the dissolution of the monasteries, Henry VIII. bestowed the lands of Vaudey Abbey upon William, ninth Lord Willoughby de Eresby, who already held extensive possessions about Spilsby, Willoughby, and Alford in Lincolnshire. This Lord Willoughby

had married Mary de Salines, a maid of honour to Queen Katherine of Aragon, and Katherine Willoughby, the sole issue of this marriage, was made the ward of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, who subsequently married her as his fourth wife, on the death of his third wife, Mary Tudor, who was sister to Henry VIII. and widow of Louis XII. of France. Fuller describes Grimsthorpe as a long range of buildings raised hastily by the Duke of Suffolk in order to entertain his brother-in-law, Henry VIII. and Queen Catherine Howard, who slept there on August 6th and 7th, 1541, on their journey to York to meet the King's nephew, James V. of Scotland. Leland says, in reference to this enlargement: "The place of Grimsthorpe was no great thing afore the new building of the second court; yet was all the old



THE ENTRANCE HALL.