

work of stone, and the gatehouse was fair and strong, and the walls on each side of it embattled." He also speaks of the moat which surrounded the house for defensive purposes—"the great ditch," no trace of which remains.

The house at that time was probably a rectangular structure of stone, with embattled walls round a central court, and a fortified gateway on the north side, the whole being surrounded by a moat. The interior wall of the south side is still practically of that period, and shows the rectangular windows, which were partly blocked up in Georgian times. The Duchess of

English ballad of the "Brave Lord Willoughby," termed by Charles Kingsley "the finest ballad of its kind in the English language." In 1589 he was given the command of the army sent by Elizabeth to the aid of Henry of Navarre, and in recognition of his services this monarch presented him with a fine diamond, which is still in the possession of the family. Peregrine was succeeded by his son Robert, created Earl of Lindsey in 1626, who on petitioning Parliament was allowed to act as Lord Great Chamberlain of England in right of his mother, Mary de Vere, daughter of the Earl



THE SECOND DRAWING-ROOM.

Suffolk married secondly Richard Bertie, M.P. for Lincoln, and became a prominent supporter of the reformed religion. Mention is made of Latimer's preaching at Grimsthorpe, and the Duchess and her husband afterwards took refuge on the Continent. On her return to England in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the Duchess is described as living at Grimsthorpe in great state and splendour, and her household accounts are still preserved.

Her son Peregrine, Lord Willoughby, served with distinction in the Low Countries, acting as Governor there after Leicester's recall. His prowess in the field is celebrated in the old

of Oxford, in whose family this office had been hereditary since the reign of Henry I. Lord Lindsey settled down in Lincolnshire, and devoted himself to the improvement of his property. At great cost he succeeded in draining 35,000 acres of the Lindsey Level, and induced farmers to erect buildings there and settle down to cultivate the land, when the agitation against the drainage of the fens, in which Oliver Cromwell, then member for Huntingdon, took so prominent a part, proved fatal to his schemes. The fen men suddenly broke in, destroying the buildings, killing the cattle, and breaking down the dykes. After the assassination of Buckingham,