

BRADFIELD, CULLOMPTON, DEVON.

DEVONSHIRE, peculiarly rich in beautiful houses as it is, has, perhaps, no interiors that can match those at Bradfield, the seat of Sir William Hood Walrond. The house stands in a very beautiful country between the height of Black Down and the river Culm, sheltered in the hollow, and amid very winsome surroundings, on the left bank of the river.

There is something very gratifying to national pride in the knowledge that the Walronds belong to a considerable class of long-lineaged English gentlemen who have lived upon their ancestral acres for centuries. They came into possession of Bradfield, or, as it was then called, Bradfelle, apparently before the time of Henry III., and the original deed of conveyance by Fulke Paynel is still in existence. To Richard Walrond, the grantee, followed William, and then three Johns, after whom came two more Williams and three more Johns, and Humphreys and Henrys afterwards began to

make their appearance, and so we come down to modern days. Various gentlemen of this many-linked chain married the heiresses of Stowford, Ufflet, Whitinge, and perhaps others.

Bradfield has not had an eventful history. So far as records show, the storms of civil strife seem to have passed it by, and its possessors have lived the useful lives of country gentlemen from generation to generation, taking their part in local affairs, and in some of those events in which the men of Devon have been prominent. The earliest and almost the only notice of buildings at Bradfield in mediæval times is that John Walrond had a licence for his oratory there in May, 1332. He, doubtless, had his house also, but of that every trace has vanished. The position of the chapel may well have been on the north side of the existing house, between two large clipped yews, and this part of the ground still retains the name of the chapel yard.

The earlier parts of the existing building appear to go back to the beginning of the



THE PORCH.