

OLD PLACE, LINDFIELD, SUSSEX.

THE subject of the following article is the interior design and decoration of Old Place, at Lindfield, in Sussex, and it is treated from the point of view of its origin and adornment. Mr. Kempe, its creator and owner, has for nearly thirty years devoted his trained hand and intellect to its building and decoration. The result represents, probably, the highest development of contemporary taste and skill in artistic design, subordinated to modern needs and requirements. No comfort or luxury is sacrificed to appearances,

yet it would be difficult, indeed, to find a house of such calibre and consideration, so beautiful and so attractive to live in. It is a "Palace of Art," but one in touch with the realities of the best side of life, and of which the soul, unlike that of the builder of Tennyson's "Palace of Art," could never grow weary. Mr. Kempe's attainments in many branches of art are well known, but, like other craftsmen, he enrolls many arts in his service, and in the interior of Old Place we see art in all forms, and all in due relation.

When a house has been created, and adorned within and without, we may take it that the idea of the perfect whole takes almost final shape in the mind of its master before it finds expression in stone, wood, and brick without, and in tapestry, painted glass, and exquisite adornment within. The imagination which can project a fine idea into such work must spring from a mind well equipped with a practical knowledge of the arts, but it must be imagination of a high order in itself. We may, for a moment, indulge in a comparison between a "lordly dwelling-house" as projected by imagination alone, the imagination of Lord Tennyson when a young man, and the creation and growth of a real house as projected and carried out by the builder and owner of Old Place. The builder of the Palace of Art, rears it as a purely abstract creation. Standing on that "huge crag platform, smooth as burnished brass," it is detached from the world and its associations. That ideal builder has no "grace of congruity" with which to make his ideas fit in. The



THE EAST GABLES.