

WILTON HOUSE, SALISBURY.

THERE is very much in the history, character, and stately beauty of Wilton House to commend it to the attention and admiration of Englishmen. Its associations are interwoven with the lives of the famous, it is in itself a wonderful architectural creation, its noble apartments contain many masterpieces of great sculptors and painters, and it is surrounded by gardens surpassingly beautiful. Its interests are therefore many-

sided. In the long line of its possessors, distinction has alighted on almost every one; they have been men equally famous in the court and the field, and even still more do they hold a large place in the intellectual history of the country. We are privileged to enter some of the princely chambers, there to survey the beauties flowing from the liberal hands of these successive Earls of Pembroke.

We do not forget that the house is in a real sense the vesture of the man; that its character springs from his individuality, and thus that it is the reflection of the personalities of those who have dwelt therein. It would be unpardonable, therefore, to forget the Herberts, Earls of Pembroke—the architect-earls and *cognoscenti*—who reared and adorned the structure we depict. Sir William Herbert, first Earl of Pembroke, Aubrey's "mad young fighting fellow," who married the sister of Catherine Parr, had received from Henry VIII. the grant of the late Abbey of Wilton, and in his house there entertained Edward VI., in 1552. He showed a certain dexterity in politics beyond his associates, for, having been concerned with Northumberland in the plot in favour of Lady Jane Grey, he was with the Lord Mayor when Mary was proclaimed in Cheapside. When



THE COLONNADE ROOM.