

Massinger, Jonson, Donne, and many more gained by his favour. Inigo Jones is said to have visited Italy at his expense. The Earl and his brother were "the incomparable pair of brethren" to whom the Shakespeare first folio was dedicated. In the autumn of 1603 the Court was for two months installed at Wilton House, owing to the prevalence of plague in London, and Shakespeare and his company performed there on December 2nd in that year. The Earl delighted in the company of men of letters, and his son Philip, who succeeded as fourth Earl, was in many ways like him. He stood high in the favour

of Charles I., who, says Aubrey, "did love Wilton above all places." The King visited Wilton every summer before the Civil War, and was greatly interested in the building operations which were going on there. We have the authority of Aubrey for saying that, at the suggestion of Charles, the garden front of the house was rebuilt on an enlarged scale in 1633. The King wished the Earl to employ Inigo Jones, but that great architect was at the time busily occupied in the works at Greenwich, and "recommended it to an ingenious architect, M. Solomon de



THE CORNER ROOM.