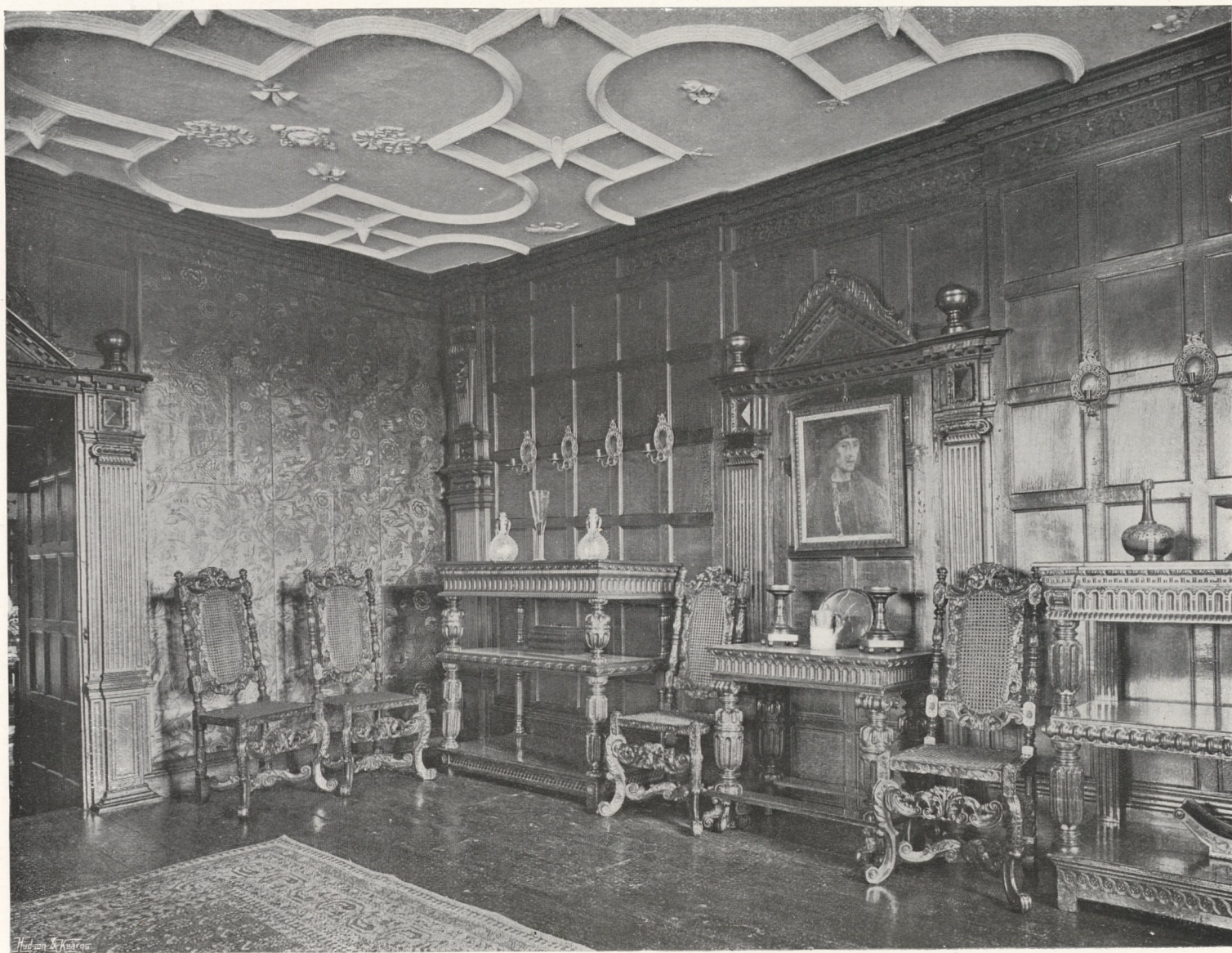


Parliament which met in 1415 to vote the money for Agincourt. This Richard was a man of some importance. He married the co-heiress of a moiety of the Barony of Aldborough and Harewood. His arms, which may be seen in the Speaker's house at Westminster, and which till lately could be traced in some old embroidery in the hall at Levens, were: Gules, a chevron argent, between three cushions ermine.

At the end of the fifteenth century Edward de Redman, who in 1482 was found by inquisition to hold the Manor of Levens of William Parr as of the Barony of Kendal, sold his entire Westmorland property to Alan Bellingham, a

he was a man of considerable wealth and importance, and was knighted by James I. at Durham in 1603. Correspondence exists between him and Lord Scrope, Warden of the Marches, on the subject of how they were to restrain the lawlessness of the Graham family on the borders, Sir James, no doubt, little thinking that one of those very Grahams of Netherby was eventually to take the place at Levens of the last of the Bellinghams of Westmorland. To this Sir James it was that Levens owed its transformation from a Border tower and hall to a richly decorated Elizabethan mansion. The present hall, of which the outer walls are the same as those of the old hall built



THE DINING-ROOM, SOUTH END.

possessor of considerable estates in Westmorland and Northumberland. This Alan was Treasurer of Berwick and Deputy Warden of the Marches. In the year 1546 he received from Henry VIII. a grant of the Lumley Fee, which constituted a fourth part of the Barony of Kendal. This still remains in the possession of the owners of Levens, the remaining three-fourths belonging to the Lowther property. His character is described in the scroll round one of the coats of arms in the north window of the large drawing-room:

"Amicus Amico Alanus
Belliger Belligero Bellinghamus."

Some thirty years later his great-grandson, Sir James Bellingham, succeeded to the old house;

by the Redmans, was certainly panelled and decorated by him, if not altogether made. That the old hall had gone up to the roof can be seen by an examination of the timbers still remaining, many of which are roughly shaped in the style of the old open-roofed halls of early England. The remains of the dais, a feature of the baronial and manorial halls of the period, are in the recess of the north window. This room is panelled for about three-quarters of its height, the oak being in perfect preservation and of beautiful grain. Above the panelling is an elaborate plaster frieze, on which are various Bellingham coats of arms. Over the fireplace are the arms of Elizabeth, while at the west