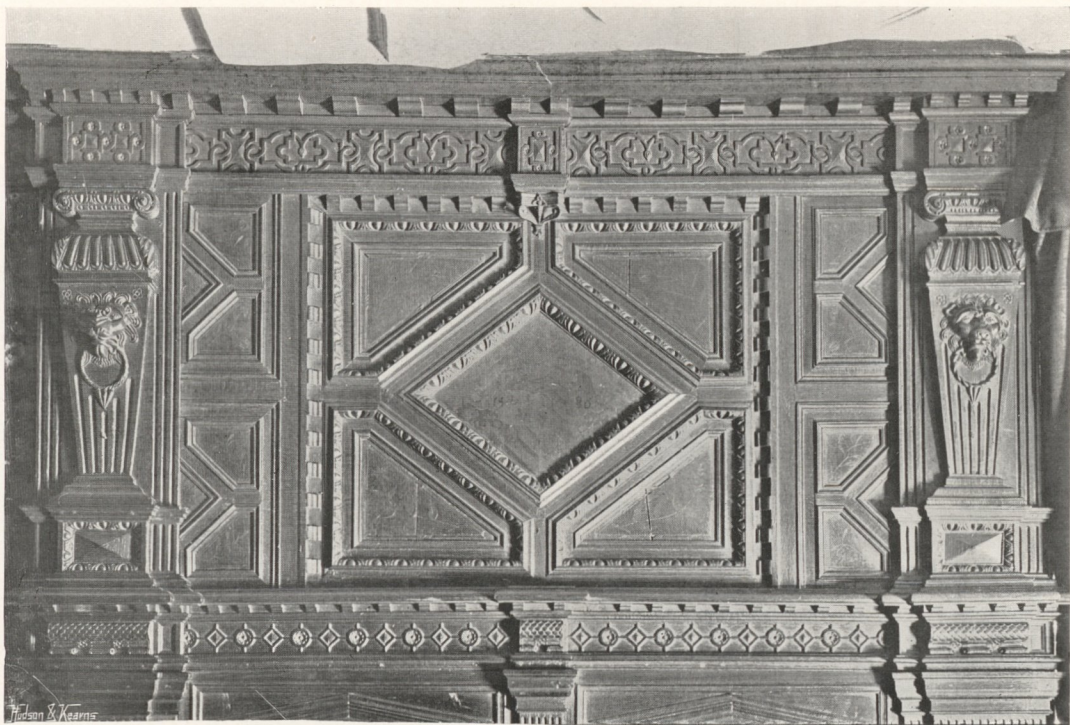


end of the room is a solid piece of panelling with arms and supporters of the quaintest character, and the date 1610. A fine piece of tapestry of unusual size hangs over the entrance to the curious little chapel, and the large staircase of nearly a century later, which ascends from the east side of the hall to some rooms overhead, all of which are completely panelled in old oak or decorated with Spanish leather. One of these rooms is celebrated as having been occupied by Bishop Ken, a constant visitor in later times at Levens. Some of the Bellingham pistols and other arms with dates and initials, together with the breastplates of the armed retainers, who might be called for by the Warden of the Marches, hang round the walls.

The north drawing-room, which, together with the smaller room adjoining it to the south, opens out from the east side of the hall, is built over the arched basement of the old pele tower of the thirteenth century. A magnificent carved oak chimney-piece, with Bellingham arms and the date 1690, is the principal feature of this room, which is entirely panelled with a large diamond pattern, while the inner drawing-room to the south has a much smaller pattern of the same sort, and another massive carved chimney-piece of the same date. In the latter room is a beautiful picture by Hoppner, of Lady Mary Bagot, while in the larger room there is, besides the valuable collection of miniatures shown in our illustration, an extremely pretty picture of the school of Holbein, said to be Queen Anne Boleyn.

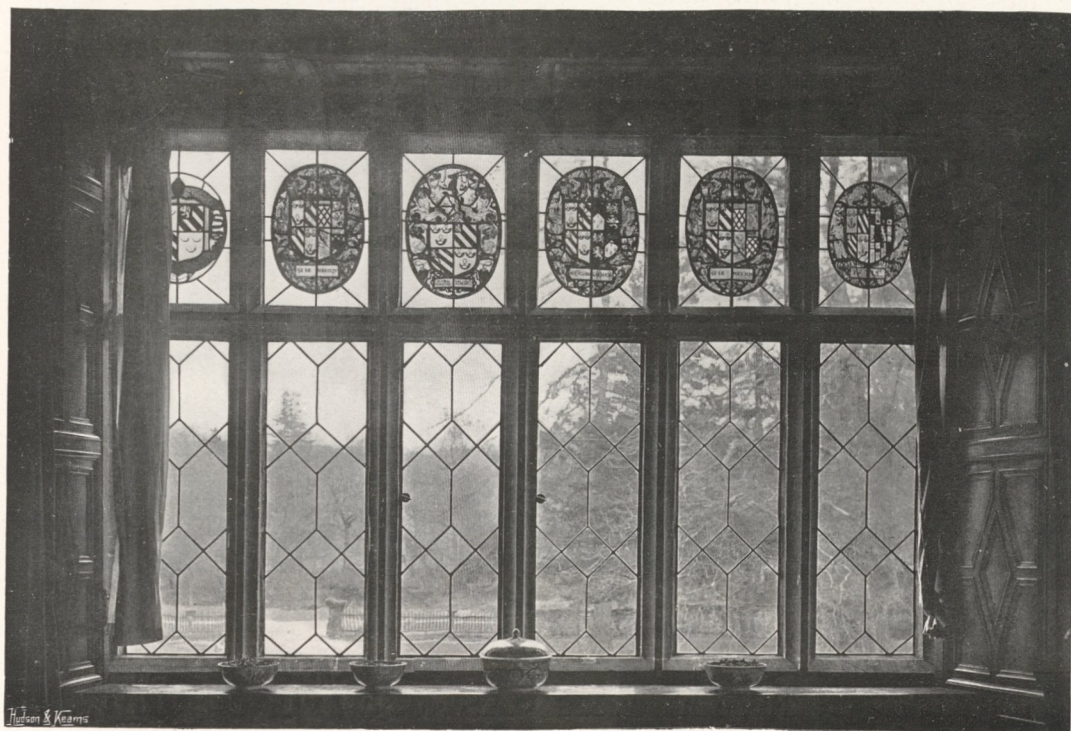


THE DINING-ROOM CHIMNEY-PIECE.

The stained glass in the windows of both rooms consists of coats of the arms of the Bellingham family and their connections, in excellent preservation; and amongst the many curiosities and artistic treasures in these rooms may be noticed two charters connected with Levens of 1172 and 1190, which have been mentioned, the latter with the seal of Richard I. attached and re-indorsed after Richard's return from captivity, a letter of Mme. de Pompadour's, James II.'s private accounts, the clasp of Napoleon's cloak, taken at Waterloo, and some fine Sèvres china, with portraits of Napoleon and his generals hunting, which belonged to the Duke or Wellington. The furniture throughout these rooms is entirely in keeping with the surroundings, and much of the carved work is very fine.

Perhaps the most perfect in its Elizabethan style and the prettiest room in the house is the

dining-room on the west side of the hall. This chamber is partly panelled and partly covered with a very richly-coloured Spanish leather; in the old inventories of the eighteenth century it is designated the "Gilt Parlour," no doubt from this gilded leather. The picture shown in our illustration of this room is one of Henry VII., by Mabuse, which was reproduced in the catalogue of the Tudor Exhibition a few years ago. The rich inlay and carving over the mantel-piece are of great interest, and have the appearance of the work of yesterday, though the centre panel tells



A WINDOW IN THE DRAWING-ROOM.