

Parliament as a peer of the realm. Then another John inherited the estate, and was a valiant soldier against the Scots and in the wars of Edward III., standing high in that monarch's favour, and being one of the original Knights of the Garter in 1350. He married Joan, the daughter of Sir Bartholomew de Burghersh, a lady of great note in the fortunes of Dunster, since, at her death, it passed to other hands.



*A PORTION OF THE STAIRWAY.*

Her husband's will is rather brief, and ominously refers to creditors in London. Perhaps the fortunes of war and the too generous hands of his ancestors had shorn him of some of his prosperity; but he made dispositions, since he left no sons, to secure the estate for life to his widow.

The remainder was secured after her death to Lady Elizabeth Luttrell, a dame of high

degree, and the price paid was 500 marks, being equivalent to £3,333 6s. 8d. The original receipt which she gave for this money is now the most interesting document preserved by Mr. Luttrell at Dunster Castle. The family of Luttrell, which thus came into possession of Dunster, claims descent from one Geoffrey, who was concerned in the rebellion of John during his brother's reign, and was reinstated in his Lincolnshire estates when the truculent king came to the throne. The husband of the noble lady who bought Dunster was Sir Andrew Luttrell of East Quantockshead, nine miles from Dunster, and she was the daughter of that great peer, Hugh Earl of Devon, and the widow of Sir John de Vere.

Sir Andrew Luttrell's son was Sir Hugh, a man of great worth, honourably employed by three successive kings. He supported the House of Lancaster, was Lieutenant of Calais, and Ambassador to the Duke of Burgundy. He succeeded to Dunster on the death of Lady Joan de Mohun, but his possession was disputed by the Mohun heiresses, who held that the lady had no right to dispose of it. A great dispute followed, ending in a long law-suit, which resulted in favour of Sir Hugh. He went to France with Henry V., and was Governor of Harfleur. Afterwards appointed Seneschal of Normandy, he lived long abroad, while his son John directed affairs at Dunster.

Although he was often absent from Dunster, much work was done at the castle in his time. In 1417 masons were summoned from Bridgewater to advise about rebuilding the hall, and two years later

part of the walls of the hall and castle was pulled down, and a new building was begun near by. This work was no doubt the gate-house, now spanning the approach from the north-west, which some have assigned to the time of Richard II., and others, with as little warrant, to that of Henry VIII. Sir Hugh's accounts mention an upper and a lower castle. The former was generally known as "le Dongeon,"