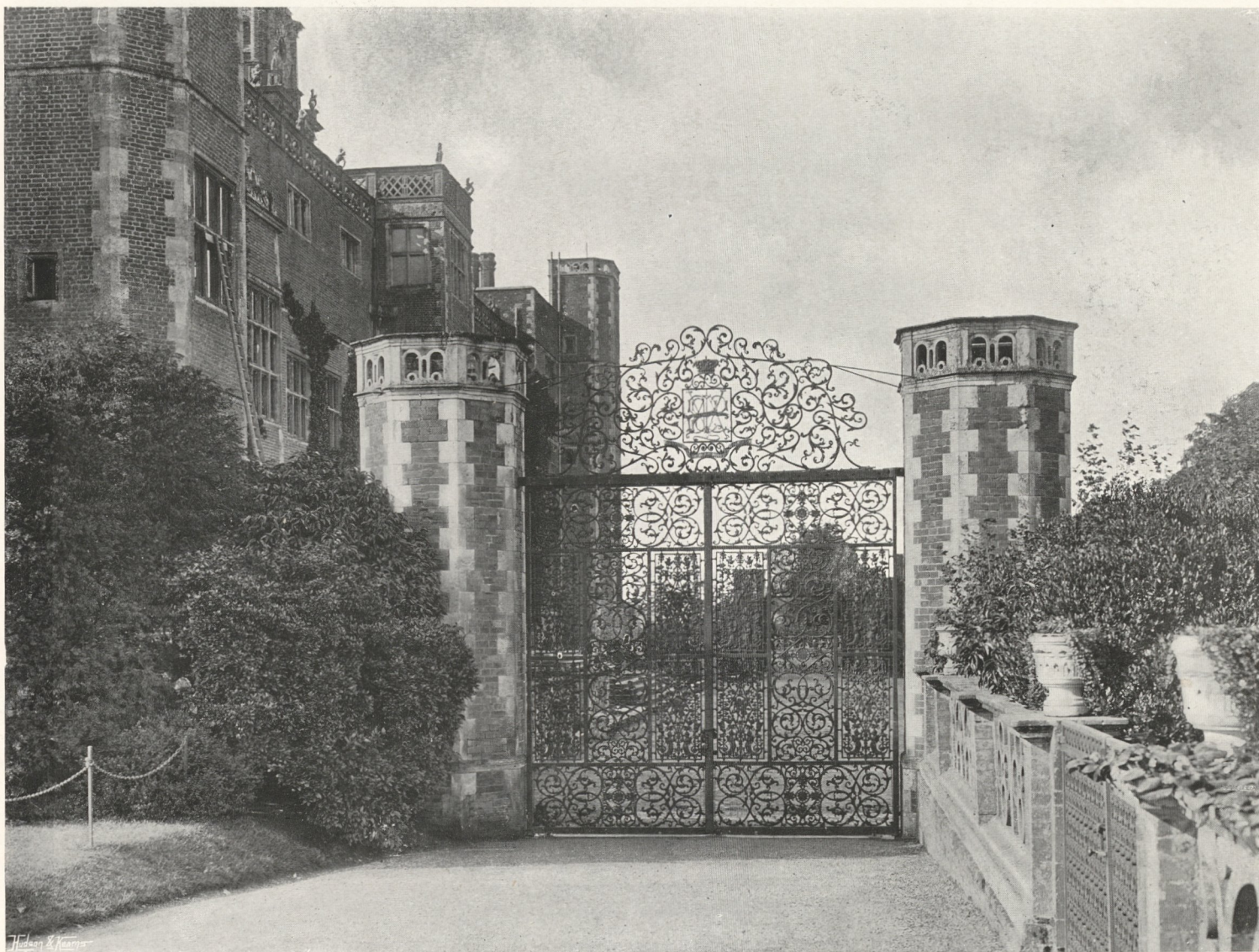


HATFIELD HOUSE, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THAT adroit statesman, the great Lord Burghley, who fills so ample a page in the annals of Tudor times, gave up the leisure of his well-filled life to the beautifying of his fine house at Theobalds. It was a goodly dwelling and a rich, invested with all those charms which were dear to the hearts of the Tudor Englishman, and surrounded by stately gardens very much to the mind of their creator. When James I. came South to take possession of that throne which right and fortune had given him, he found many things that took his fancy, and Theobalds among them. Some say, indeed, that it was his Queen who set her affections upon Lord Burghley's house. Sir Robert Cecil, younger son of the great statesman, who was raised by James to the earldom of Salisbury, had come into possession of Theobalds, and feeling, doubtless, that the wish

of the Sovereign was equivalent to a command, readily accepted the offer that was made to him. It was that he should surrender Theobalds in exchange for Hatfield, which was no mean place, nor in any way undesirable. The astute Secretary—"my little beagle," James called him, the "pigmy," "little man," or elf, as he has been styled—is said by some to have made a very good bargain. It would appear that he received in exchange more than double the value of Theobalds, and yet had the art to persuade the King and Queen that he had done them a considerable favour. It was in May, 1603, that James became enamoured of Theobalds, and, when the transfer had been made, the building of the new Hatfield began.

Bishop's Hatfield, or Cecil's Hatfield, as the Lord Treasurer would have called it, had been a possession and residence of the Bishops



THE EAST GATEWAY ON THE NORTH FRONT.