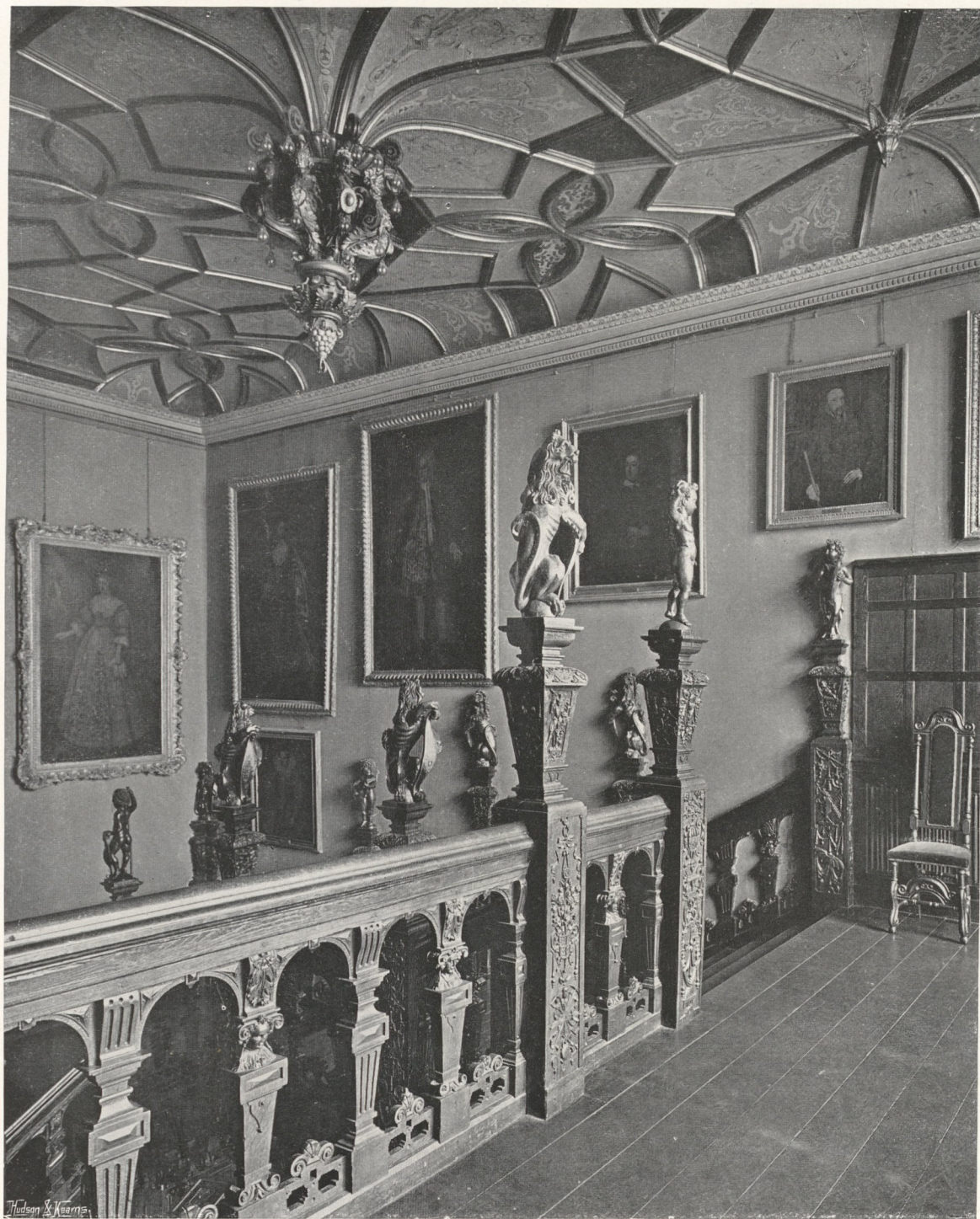


Lord Salisbury's magnificent house is not that in which Elizabeth dwelt. Some part of the old palace, however, still remains, and is carefully preserved, the central gateway now serving as the strangers' entrance to Hatfield House and park. Robert Cecil, like his father, and like most great men of the time, was a splendid builder. Some say that in his new Hatfield he was his own architect. Others have ascribed the building to the famous John Thorpe, and it is certainly in

that Leicester had added his "lodgings" to Kenilworth, that Sir John Thynne was engaged upon Longleat, and that the great house of Audley End was building. The work went on energetically, and the impressive majesty of the structure, its lofty grandeur, and the richness of its windows and adornments, and, not least, the fine grouping of its parts, giving rich play of light and shade, place Hatfield among the most notable of all the great mansions of that very remarkable time.

The finest of English craftsmen, brick-carvers from Flanders, inlayers and plaster-workers from Florence and Venice, were engaged in the work, while Cecil earned something of the ill-will of his neighbours by enclosing a part of Hatfield Chase. Early in 1610 very substantial progress had been made, and a woodworker named Janivere, from France or Flanders, was engaged upon the wainscoting, chimney-pieces, and other woodwork, which still are chiefest among the internal beauties of Hatfield House. There is noble panelling, and the friezes, mouldings, and strap-work patterns are very rich, while the embellishments, especially of the staircase, are not surpassed anywhere in England. It is interesting to know that the house was built for what would appear to be a comparatively small sum. Of course, the change in the purchasing power of money explains the



*THE GRAND STAIRWAY DESCENT.*

Thorpe's style, but is not named in the list of his buildings in his book of plans. Cecil, no doubt, cast regretful looks upon Theobalds. Indeed, he told Sir Robert Lake that he "borrowed one day's retreat from London" to visit it. But he immediately set out to build the Hatfield which still stands, and in order to do so demolished three sides of the old quadrangle. It has been pointed out that, when Cecil built, Sir Thomas Lucy had already erected Charlecote, which presents interesting analogies to Hatfield,

fact. From accounts still preserved we learn that the expenditure was £7,631 11s. 3d., and some of the particulars are very interesting, since they throw some light upon the value of fine handicraft at the time. "Item, for cuttinge of 48 stone lyons, which stande in the openworke of masonrye about the house, for 11 tafferils more, for the carving of the pew heads in the chappell, the stone pedestalls in the openworke before the house, the chimney-piece in the upper chappell, and the Corinthian heads which stand