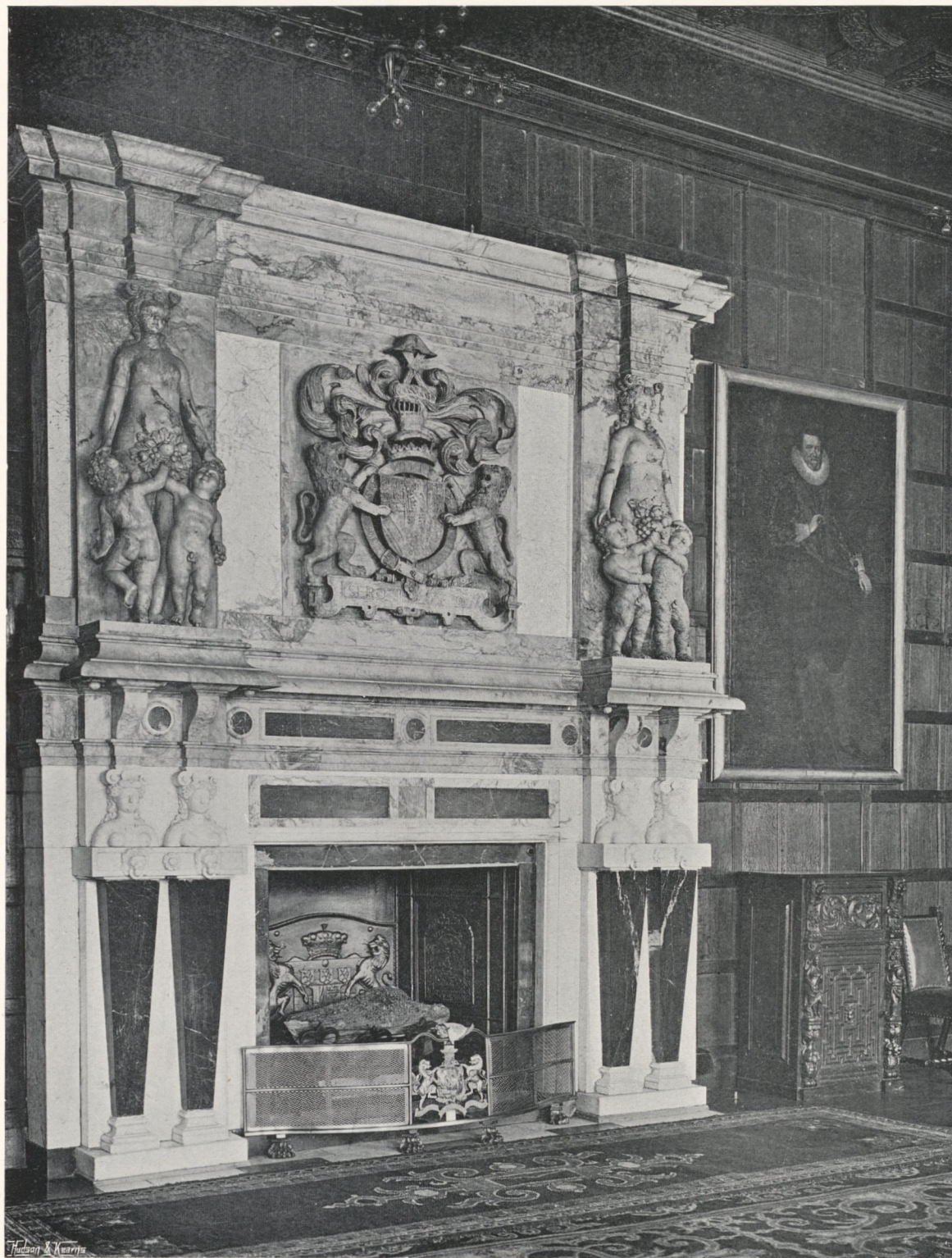


within a classic character is given to the work also. The state rooms are, indeed, magnificent and imposing, and have probably no rivals in the land. The Marble Hall is very splendid. Spacious and lofty, it has a great coved and enriched ceiling, divided into panels by elaborately-worked ribs, and adorned with the heads of the Cæsars, and with much labour of the brush. The noble chamber is amply lighted by

there is a very fine gallery on the east side, with the Cecil arms boldly carved. Here the minstrels assembled to discourse sweet music to the guests gathered below. War-worn flags hang from the gallery, with their touch of human and national interest, some of them being relics of the Great War and of the Grande Armée.

The Marble Hall leads to the Grand Staircase, with its five landings, its wicket-gates to

prevent the dogs from ascending, its massive carved balusters, its naked figures, its heraldic lions, its splendid carvings, and its pictures by Zuccherò, Van Dyck, Lely, Kneller, Beechey, and others. The staircase brings us to the Long Gallery, that characteristic apartment of the great houses of the time, wherein the gallant gentlemen and gay ladies of Elizabethan society walked through the stately minuet and enjoyed many diversions of the times. The Long Gallery at Hatfield is of unusual proportions, being 163ft. long by 20ft. wide and 16ft. high. Fluted Ionic pillars divide it into three sections, and the magnificent carved panelling is enframed between pilasters of the same, while the two grand fireplaces, with overhanging mantels, are notable architectural works, executed in lovely materials, the marbles being richly inlaid. The gallery has a flat fret ceiling of very complex pattern, and the floor is of dark



*THE DINING-ROOM CHIMNEY-PIECE.*

a great oriel at the upper end, and by three fine windows on the south side. At the lower end is a glorious carved screen, massive in its character, and extremely rich in its work. The features are such as specially characterise Elizabethan art, and the panels and strap-like patterns, and the enrichments of pillars, brackets, and finals, are extremely good. The doorway in the middle of the screen is of particularly excellent work. The walls are wainscoted with oak, and

oak. The furniture here is all very good, and quite typical of the time, without a single jarring note.

King James's Room, or the Great Chamber, is at the east end of the gallery, and is a superb apartment, 59ft. by 27ft., very lofty, gorgeous in carving, gold, and colour, and lighted by three tall bay windows. The great feature of the chamber is the grand chimney-piece, which is 12ft. wide, and of coloured marbles, the supports