

correspondence revealed the Royal purpose of employing foreign aid to establish the English crown more securely. Lord Jermyn became prominent in many affairs. He intrigued, in 1648, to obtain command of the Fleet, though

he went through the form of marriage with the Queen. Pepys describes him in his old age: "Dining at my Lord Chamberlain's, met my Lord of St. Albans, now grown so blind that he could not see to take his meat. He has lived



*THE ENTRANCE TO RUSHBROOKE HALL.*

knowing nothing about it, and aspired to be Lord High Admiral. At the Restoration, when he was created Earl of St. Albans, his power rested upon the favour of the Queen-Mother and the favour of the French Court, and scandal says that

a most easy life, in plenty, even abroad, whilst his Majesty was a sufferer. He has lost immense sums at play, which yet, at about eighty years old, he continues, having one that sits by him to name the spots on the cards. He ate and drank