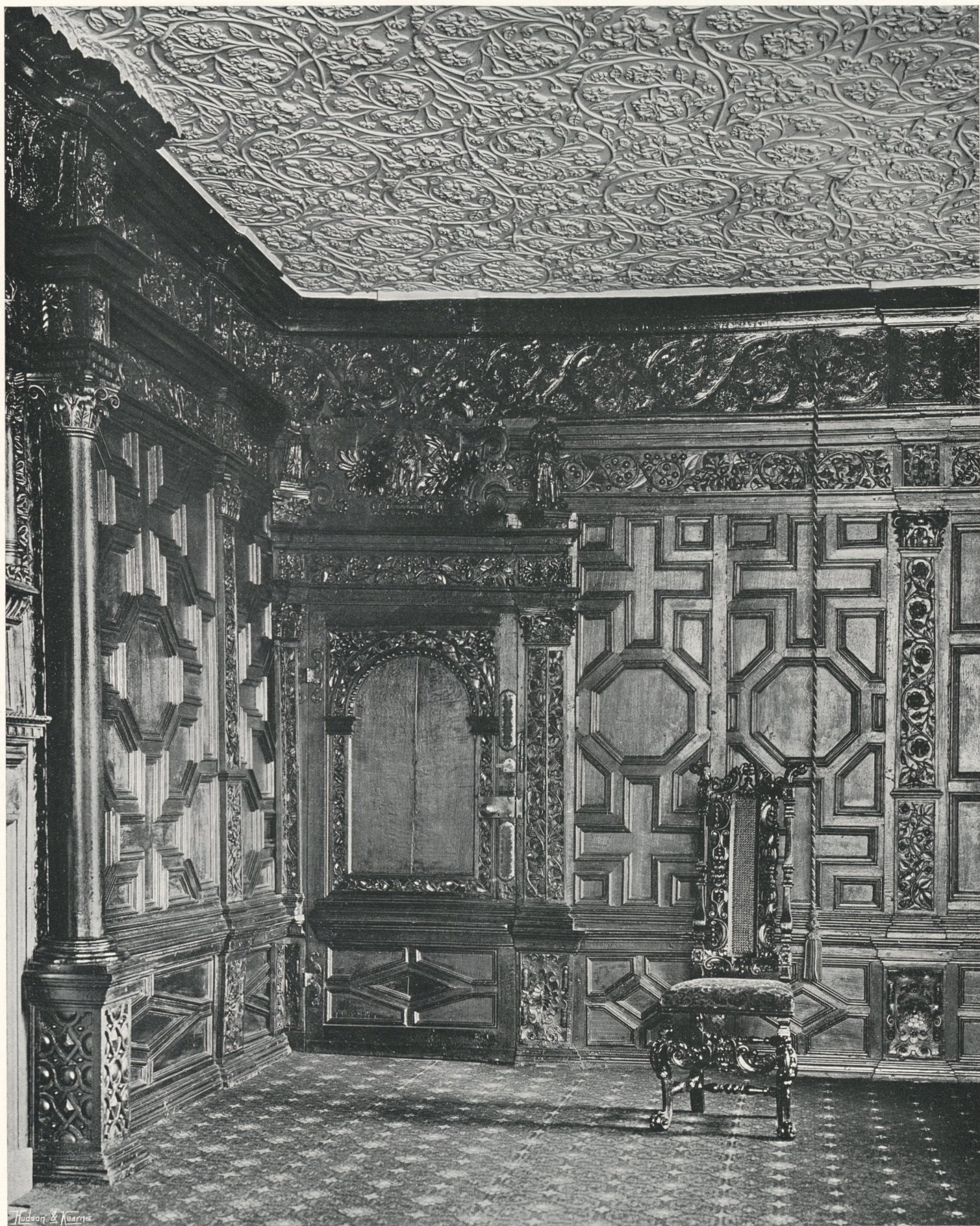




*A CORNER IN THE OAK ROOM.*

It has been persistently asserted that Inigo Jones was concerned in altering the plans and in making additions to the house before the Boyntons were in possession, but there appears to be no real evidence of the fact. Certainly, the gate-house, with its four octagonal turrets, its cupolas, and all its picturesque quaintness, would be worthy of him, and there is something in the rather unusual entrance to the house, with its Ionic and Corinthian columns, and its achievements of arms, that

bespeaks the care of some master-hand in architecture. The true note of the place is struck when we set foot in the entrance hall, and find a richness of carving and an elaboration of effect which are quite unusual. The chimney-piece of stone and marble is a truly wonderful work. Coupled Ionic columns, covered with floral arabesques, and a bracket in the middle of the mantel, support a very elaborately carved panel, which represents the parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins. It would almost appear that some foreign hand had