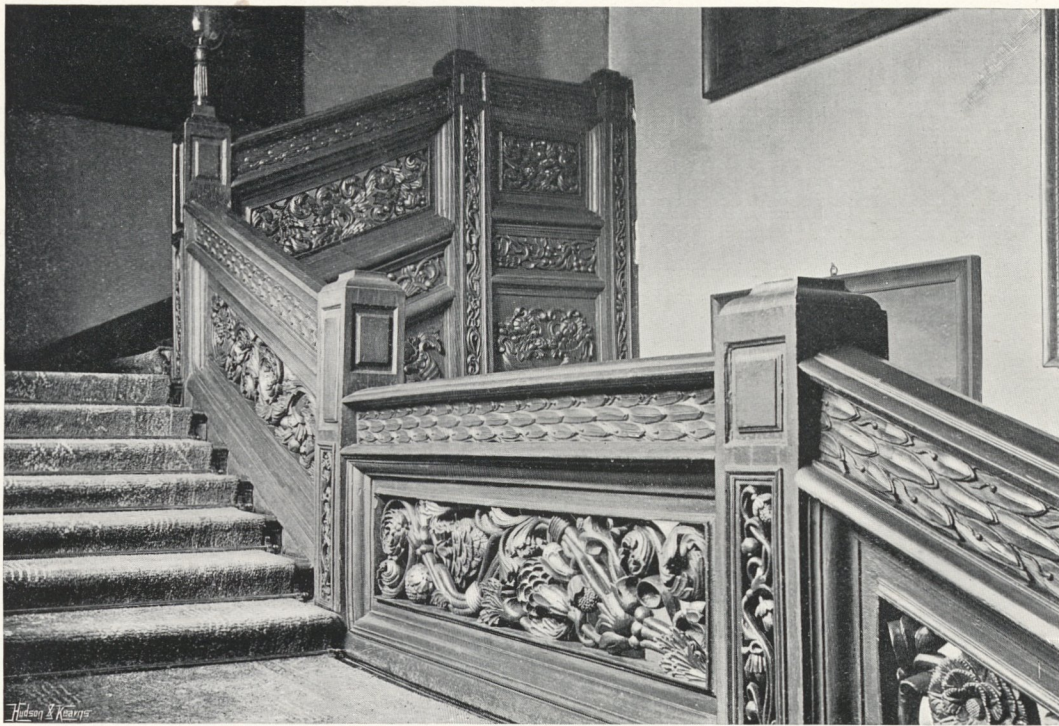


portraits, including Bishop Compton and the third Earl. The beautiful old staircase of the time of the building of the house is on the west side. Several of the rooms are lined with fine tapestry, mostly of Dutch origin, representing scenes of the Deluge and a wedding and rustic gaieties. The State Bedroom has rich and peculiar needlework, and some pieces of fine Italian tapestry.

The Long Gallery on the south side of the quadrangle, which was built by Inigo Jones, belongs, in its features, to a later date than other parts of the structure. The late Marquess divided it into three compartments by richly elaborated transverse beams, supported by fluted Corinthian columns in couples, each compartment

of the ceiling being beautifully adorned, and the mouldings and panellings in the plaster are both rich and effective. Here the influence of more modern tastes will be noted, and it will be seen that the style of furniture accords with that of the noble chamber, which has little, save its proportions and purpose, in common with the long gallery of Elizabethan and earlier times. Indeed, in its character it is purely classic, and it adds no little to the attractive aspect of the interior of Castle Ashby. The place has long since lighted upon good and seemly days, and has fallen into the hands of those to whom it has been a pleasure and a duty to adorn it, as befitted the ancient ancestral mansion of the great house of Compton, Marquesses of Northampton.



THE UPPER STAIRWAY.