

GODINTON, KENT.

THE interiors of the ancient house at Godinton, or Godington, in Kent, have a sumptuous richness which will impress everyone. We may go far, indeed, before we discover such a wealth of carving and adornment elsewhere, and even in a shire which includes such places as Penshurst and Knole, Surrenden Dering and Leeds Castle, Godinton House stands forth as in many ways remarkable. It has been possessed by those who have loved it, and have therefore adorned it, and the exceeding richness of its craftsmanship, the positive incrustation of beauties, is partly explained by the fact that a former possessor was a great collector of ancient carved

woodwork. In our pictures what is shown belonged mostly to Godinton originally, but here and there the discerning eye may detect an alien feature. Purists may, perhaps, raise an objection to the intermingling of the work of different periods collected from various places; but let us not undervalue zeal and the love of old things when we witness so plentiful a lack of that spirit everywhere throughout the land.

Godinton is an ancient place in the southwestern part of the parish of Great Chart, and lies upon the north bank of the river Stour, about two miles north-west of Ashford. Architecturally the existing house belongs mostly to



THE CHINA ROOM.