

WROXTON ABBEY, BANBURY, OXFORDSHIRE.

THE old seat of Lord North, standing within some three miles of Banbury town, in Oxfordshire, with its fine Stuart character, has affinities of date and style with many other houses depicted in this book. Built up in its foundations are some few remains of the Augustinian Abbey from which it takes its name, whereof the possessions passed at the Dissolution to Sir Thomas Pope, the founder of Trinity College, Oxford. The ancient buildings are said to have been destroyed by fire. In the reign of James I. Sir William Pope, afterwards Earl of Downe, to whom the property then belonged, erected a splendid mansion on the

remains of the Priory. From the Pope family it passed by the marriage of the last heiress, Lady Frances Pope, to Sir Francis North, afterwards Lord Guilford, Lord Keeper in the reign of James II., with whose descendants it still remains.

It will be seen by the illustrations that the internal features are of extraordinary beauty and much elaboration. The door in the inner porch, leading into the Great Hall, is a marvel of Jacobean craftsmanship, much adorned with rich panelling, medallions, and human figures. The hall itself is a very remarkable apartment, with the unusual feature of entwined columns beautifully sculptured to support its carved oak gallery. It has



THE DINING-ROOM.