



THE SCREEN AND GALLERY OF THE HALL.

largest and most beautiful palaces of its time in England.

Upon entering the house the visitor is impressed by the splendid character of the Great Hall, with its grand oaken roof, its magnificent carved screen and gallery, and its sculptured mantel-piece. Surmounting the screen, of which the enriched details are well seen in the picture, are the arms of the Protector Somerset in the middle, of Thomas Ratcliffe, Earl of Sussex, and of Cecil, Lord Burghley, while below are numerous achievements showing the alliances of the family of Thynne. Heraldry

plays a large part in the adornment of this glorious apartment, and it is employed in admirable sculptured form. Thus, at the other end of the hall, below the small gallery, are the arms of Savile, Lord Halifax, with the owl crest and the motto, "Be Fast," and over a door on the south side is the shield of Devereux, Earl of Essex. The white marble mantel-piece, supported by fluted Ionic columns, consists of caraytid figures, bearing a carved entablature, and a clock and wind-dial are enframed. The great hunting pictures which line the lofty walls above the panelling are by Wootton, and