

childless, and the title and estate went by the special remainder to Frederick Thomas, third Earl of Strafford, his cousin, who also died childless in 1799, when the estate passed to Mrs. Hatfield-Kaye, his sister.

The present owner is descended from Harriet, sister of the second Earl, who married Mr. Henry Vernon, of Hilton. When the estate passed to these descendants in the female line, by the will of Mrs. Hatfield-Kaye, Mr. Frederick Thomas William Vernon added the name of Wentworth.

Wentworth Castle, made what it is by these interesting men, is a great and stately erection, uniting some things that are old with the dignified aspect of great classic forms. There is a magnificent Hall, its panelled ceiling adorned with allegories in the manner of Verrio, supported by fluted Ionic columns, while the pavement is in black and white marble. The hand of Grinling Gibbons is traced in much of the fine wood-carving, in panels and friezes, and there are characteristic mantels supported by figures. The East Tapestry Room has rich fluted Corinthian pilasters and a boldly modelled ceiling; and

Queen Anne's Sitting Room is in the same style. According to the manner of the time, the apartments communicate with one another. The Great Stairway has a magnificent carved balustrade, admirable in its style and kind. Everywhere the panelling and decorative work are extremely good. The gem of the house is the Long Gallery, with its marble Corinthian columns and pilasters. This great and noble chamber has fine enriched entablatures and mouldings, and a coved ceiling.

Here are many works of the famous art collection, but the whole house is filled with interesting pictures. Some few are copies of great masters, and the authorship of some others may be disputed, but there is no gainsaying that the collection is one of the richest in the North of England. Much excellent sculpture is also in the house, and the tapestries are very remarkable.

It will be seen, therefore, that Wentworth Castle deserves to rank high among the stately places of the country, on account of its great personal interests and associations with prominent men, its architectural merits, and the richness of its extensive collections.



THE GREAT HALL.