

SALTRAM, PLYMPTON, DEVON.

IT may be said of Saltram, the Earl of Morley's attractive seat, that it combines very completely the advantages of solid comfort and refined taste with the amenities of natural beauty. Situated only some three miles away from the busy town and port of Plymouth, the house commands a fine panorama of the estuary of the Plym, and of the Sound into which it flows, with the historic height of Mount Edgcumbe in the background.

The former house of Sir James Bagg in the time of Charles II., it was purchased early in the eighteenth century by Mr. George Parker of Boringdon, a very old manor house about two miles distant, and the superior beauty of Saltram

appears then to have attracted him. George Parker's son John and the latter's wife, Lady Catherine, a daughter of the first Earl Poulett, proceeded to build the present house on the site of its predecessor. The edifice cannot be said to possess any very great architectural pretensions, but is not

without a certain stately and yet simple dignity which characterises much of the architecture of that period. Moreover, apart from its architectural style, the mere size of the house would give it an air of impressiveness; and when to this is added an excellent harmony of scale and due proportion, the effect upon the spectator exceeds that exerted by many buildings of greater reputation. The house was in its main features completed by Mr. John Parker and Lady Catherine, and no important additions have been made by their successors.

On the southern and eastern sides the structure measures about 135ft., while on the western side it extends to 170ft. The exterior of Saltram is full of noble and quiet dignity,

but the real interest of the place is in the artistic value of the treasures which adorn the interior. A fortunate circumstance has filled the house with examples of perhaps the greatest English painter, who may, indeed, be regarded as the founder of the English school of painting—Sir Joshua Reynolds. As is well known, Sir Joshua was the son of the Master of the Grammar School at Plympton, a neighbouring parish, and the first Lord Boringdon became his very intimate friend. Thus the house contains many splendid works of Sir Joshua, and others by famous artists, the Saltram Gallery being well known to collectors as one of the most interesting in the country.



THE CHIMNEY-PIECE IN THE VELVET ROOM.

The suite of rooms on the ground floor is remarkable for the harmonious decorations by the brothers Adam. The Entrance Hall, and the staircase which opens out from it, have ceilings of elaborately ornamented plaster-work, probably by Italian artists. In the hall, too, are to be seen in great perfection examples

of the beautiful and delicate mouldings which are general throughout the house, particularly over the doorways. These are characterised by an extraordinary gracefulness of line, while conventional flowers and fruit are introduced, with an admirable restraint which renders the whole effect very successful. There is a classic bust over the mantel, and the sculptured adornments are most charming.

The staircase possesses an air of distinction which the observant visitor traces largely to the effect of its well-proportioned fluted columns. The walls are made beautiful by a number of large pictures from the brush of Angelica Kauffmann, who painted them especially for the house.