

with cusped lights, which probably belongs to the fifteenth century, and in the Raleigh Room is panelling of the folded linen pattern, not much later, though associated with Jacobean woodwork enframing a Tudor mantel-piece. The oldest portions of the house are, perhaps, the entrance gateway, which has a fine oriel window over it, and the Hall, with its porch and bay, probably belonging to the time of Henry VII. These may well have been built by the Walter Long who has been mentioned already.

The features of the Hall are very noteworthy. It dates from a time when the lord, his family, and his guests no longer sat at meals with his retainers and menials, with only the salt between them, or the distinction of the high table on the dais from the tables of those who sat below. At Wraxall the old dais seems to have disappeared, but its place in the Hall is known, and that apartment occupies the same relation to the domestic offices and the "solar" that was customary in nearly all old English houses. The unusual mantel-piece bears the date 1598, and has a curious design enframing a shield of arms with a grotesque head over it. The scrollwork is massive, and has a character not often seen. Some restoration, or rather regeneration of the old aspect of the apartment, has lately taken place, the evil jacketing of paint, which parts of the

woodwork had received, having been removed. The Hall screen, of which we give an illustration, has thus been taken in hand. It probably belongs to the reign of Elizabeth, and has fluted Ionic pilasters freely treated, with round arches and a cornice with a shell design. The roof of the Hall was partly hidden by a plaster ceiling at the time when the rich fireplace was inserted. A passage-way is behind, with a porch opening from the principal court at one end, and a door to the servants' court, or "pump

court," at the other, and at the back of the passage doors open to the buttery and pantry, in a line with which is the kitchen.

One remarkable feature of the house is the fireplace in the Dining Room, which stands between two bold Ionic columns rising to the ceiling. The adornments consist of two oval panels in admirable frames, with grotesque heads and fruit, and in the middle is the very quaint conceit of a baboon seated upon a bracket



*THE GUEST CHAMBER CHIMNEY-PIECE.*

with the inscription "Mors rapit omnia." The panels also bear inscriptions—"Faber est quisq. fortune sue," and "Æqua laus est a laudatis laudari et ab improbo improbari."

The grand Drawing Room, once the "solar" or "lord's chamber," to which a staircase leads up from the Hall, was enlarged in the time of James II., and is extremely handsome, with a richly ornamented plaster ceiling, fine panelling from floor to ceiling, a noble bay window, and, above all, the splendid mantel-