

CHAWTON HOUSE, HAMPSHIRE.

THIS fine Hampshire mansion stands towards the borders of Surrey, about midway between Farnham and Alresford, in a country much varied with wood, heath, and meadow, and within a short distance of Selborne and the famous home of Gilbert White. Here was one of the forty-five lordships which Hugh de Port, the Conqueror's comrade in arms, received in Hampshire as the guerdon of

his share in the enterprise, and Chawton remained with the family under the name of St. John for nearly 500 years, until, on the death of Sir Thomas Poyning, Lord St. John, in 1458, it fell, through default of male issue, to Joan, wife of Sir Thomas Bonville, whose granddaughter Elizabeth married Sir Thomas West, Lord De La Warr. By this family the property was sold on April 8th, 1551, to John Knight, who

belonged to a family long established in the county. The Knights appear, indeed, to have held land in Chawton from the time of Edward II., if not earlier, and in 1524 William Knight had been tenant of the lands purchased by his grandson John in 1551. The manor did not go with the property, but was left by Lord De La Warr, who died in 1554, to Leonard West, by whom it was sold to Thomas Arundell, and from that proprietor's son William it was purchased in May, 1578, by Nicholas, the son of John Knight. From that time forward the estate and manor have remained in the same family, and thus have descended to the present owner.

The existing manor house, which is a beautiful Tudor structure, was built by John Knight, the son of Nicholas, who purchased the manor. The house has gone through some subsequent changes, but the older parts, including the Great Hall and



THE SOUTH STAIRCASE.