

War. It was a fine and excellent piece of work in the style of the period, and when all was ready Pakington gave a great house-warming, at which the neighbouring nobles and gentlemen were hospitably entertained, though they were chiefly lodged at Hampton Lovett. We have the authority of Nash for saying that the house at Westwood was a lodge and banqueting-room only, standing in the midst of a fine woodland. Sir John married the daughter of Humphrey Smith, the Queen's silkman, widow of Benedict Barnham, who brought him a considerable estate, which enabled him to retrieve his fortunes, but the marriage was not a happy one, nevertheless.

The knight was succeeded by his son John, who was created a baronet in 1620, and was M.P. for Aylesbury, in which district the family had estates. He died as a young man, and was succeeded by Sir John Pakington, the second baronet, who suffered much in the Royal cause in the Civil War, and to whom the present character of Westwood Park must be ascribed. The house at Hampton Lovett had suffered heavily in the troublous time, and the cavalier baronet therefore transferred his residence to Westwood. The King came to his assistance, and a grant of £4,000 was made to him under the name of "Edward Gregory," as the King explained, lest the example should be prejudicial. It was at this time that Westwood received the four diagonal wings, which were built out from the original structure, giving it a form that appears to be unique. The arrangement presented some difficulties of communication between rooms, but the effect is excellent externally, for there are four great fronts all grand and imposing. The portico is an exquisite example of Renaissance work, and the details are extremely pretty and attractive; but the fluted Corinthian columns were originally the support of a balustrade, which was removed to make the top available as a balcony to the Great Saloon. Otherwise very few changes have passed over the structure.

Sir John Pakington, the cavalier baronet, died in 1680, and was succeeded by another Sir John, who spent a retired life at Westwood, and was reputed to be one of the finest Anglo-Saxon scholars of his time. He represented his county in Parliament from 1685 to 1687. Dean Hicke was his intimate friend, and appears to have written some of his learned works at Westwood.

His "*Grammatica Anglo-Saxonica*" is dedicated to Sir John Pakington, and we shall be pardoned for quoting its description of the beauties of Westwood and its gardens and park at the time, as well adapted to the seclusion of the student: "*Ibi porticus, atria, prophylæa, horti, ambulacra clausa et subdialia, recta et sinuosa, omnia studiis commoda; ibi luci, silvæ, nemora, prata, saltus, planities, pascua, et nihil quod animum pene a literis abhorrentem ad legendum, audiendumve, et quovismodo discendum componere et conciliare potest.*"



THE STAIRWAY.

The student baronet was succeeded by a worthy gentleman, another Sir John Pakington, who lived until 1728, and is supposed to have been the original of the famous Sir Roger de Coverley. It is true that Addison disclaims having had any originals for his characters, but, although Sir Roger does not altogether answer to Sir John in the circumstances of his life, there are undoubtedly resemblances in the two personalities, and again in Coverley Hall and its surroundings, as resembling Westwood Park, with a ruined abbey near it, and its pleasant walks "struck