

from the church of St. Irene at Constantinople, which had been worn by the defenders of the Palæologi against the Turks in 1452. The collection also includes three complete suits of armour of 1160, 1250, and 1350, and complete suits of Gothic armour, with pointed toes, prior to 1452, as well as many helmets and several cross-hilted swords. The late Lord Zouche described the collection in the *Archæological Journal*, XXII. 1865. Three of the magnificent suits and a great number of splendid and characteristic helmets will be seen in our picture of the interior of the Hall. Most of the precious manuscripts from the Library have been removed to the British Museum. In the hands of the fourteenth baron the great house at Parham was well cared for, and our illustrations will show that the place is maintained in perfect state and order.

The park is famous among the many beautiful parks of Sussex, and has interests that are quite its own. Knox, in his "Ornithological Ramble in Sussex," rightly speaks of it as a forest-like park, or rather chase, with its thickets of birch and whitethorn, and its wide-branched elms and oaks, the latter especially grand and picturesque. On every side is a realm of sylvan beauty, and a background of green hill is seen here and there between the splendid masses of foliage. Knox speaks with enthusiasm of the most interesting heronry there. "Advancing with the utmost caution, the visitor may perhaps

invade the colony without disturbing them, and hear the indescribable, half-hissing sound, uttered by the young birds when in the act of being fed. The slightest noise, however, even the snapping of a stick, will send the parent birds off at once. The herons assemble early in February, and then set about repairing their nests, but the trees are never entirely deserted during the winter months, a few birds, probably some of the more backward of the preceding season, roosting among their boughs every night." The history of the heronry is curious. The ancestors of the birds were brought originally, it is believed, to Penshurst, by the steward of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, from Coity Castle in South Wales, and at Penshurst the herons remained until the beginning of the nineteenth century, when, some of their nesting trees being cut down, they resented the intrusion and migrated to Michelgrove, some fifty miles south-west of Penshurst, and six or seven south of Parham. The proprietor of Michelgrove having cut some of his trees, the birds migrated again, and established themselves at Parham in 1826. Some of them were alarmed once more by the trees there being pruned, and they then betook themselves to Arundel, about six miles away, but came back after a while, and increased and multiplied, being thereafter disturbed only by the thieving rooks. The heronry adds much interest to the ferny deeps and the glorious old oaks, pines, and firs of Parham Park.



PARHAM PARK.