

HEWELL GRANGE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

IT suffices to look at these pictures of the beautiful seat of Lord Windsor in the Midlands to recognise the true distinction which rests upon the house. The Italian taste largely pervades it, especially in the vast and noble Hall which fills the middle space, and yet it possesses great variety, or even contrariety, of character. Externally we are in the presence of a mansion of modern construction, but that belongs architecturally to the time of Charles or James, and in some of its elaborate windows appearing to reflect the style of that famous house, the Hall at Bradford-on-Avon. These windows of many lights, these high gables and oriels, and these lofty chimneys, seem to belong to

England entirely; and yet, when we enter the house, we are confronted with splendid work that would be at home in some fine palace of Italy. The house represents the lofty taste of its noble owner, and the skill in architectural design of Mr. Garner.

Before we go any further, it seems desirable, or even essential, to say something concerning the history of Hewell Grange, which is the lineal descendant of a grange of the great Cistercian Abbey of Bordesley, founded by the Empress Maud in 1138. It lies in the parish of Tardebigge or Tarbick, which has the curious distinction that its church lies partly in Warwickshire and partly in Worcestershire. Habington, who was the first collector of



THE GREAT HALL AND ITS GALLERIES.