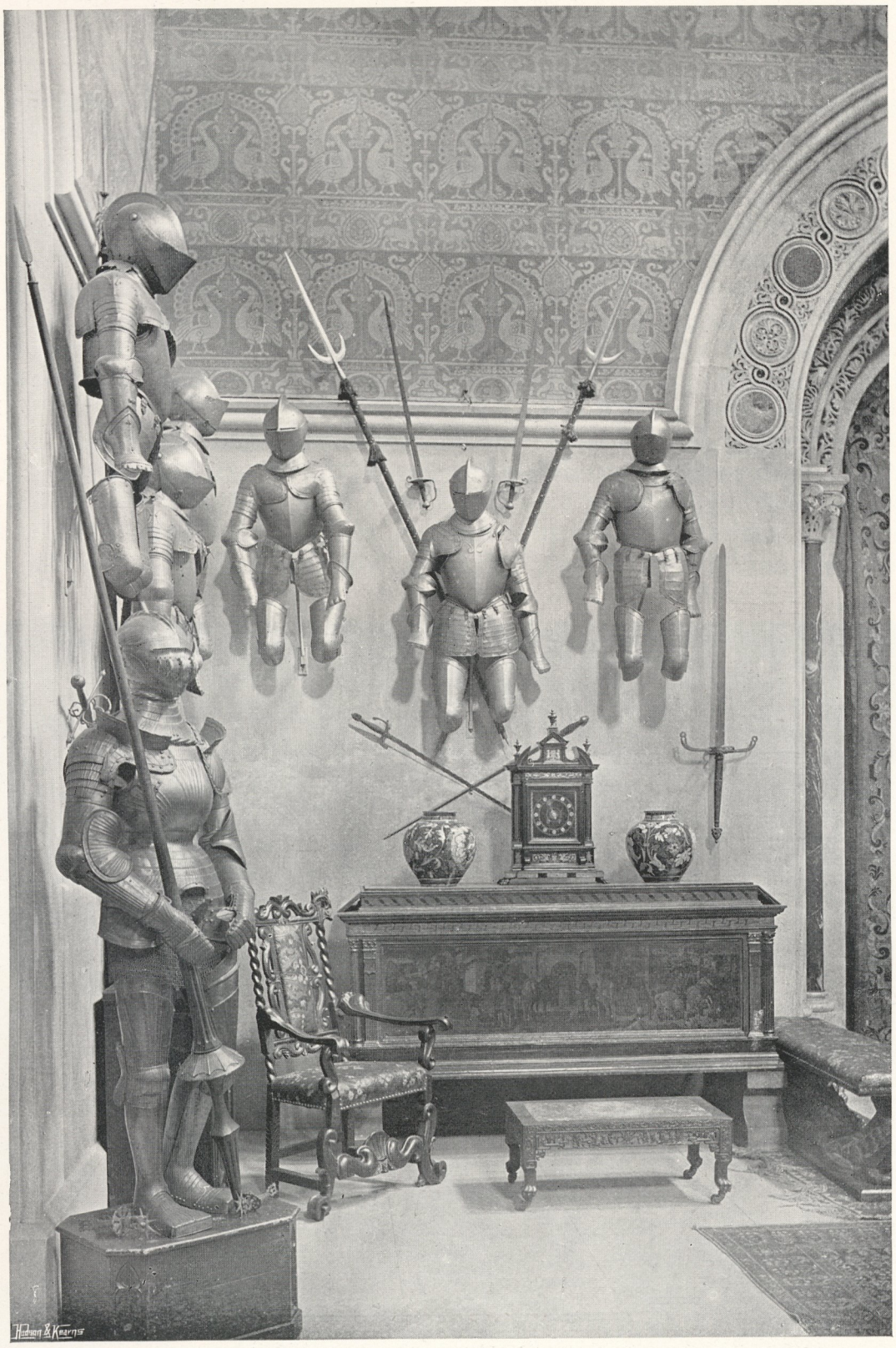
with oleander and bay trees, these being varieties of the laurel, which is the Somers badge, and from the branches depend shields, the arms and quarterings of which show the family marriages from the time of Henry VII. to the present day. The portraits are of Sir Philip Yorke, first Earl of Hardwicke (1670), by Bliss; Mistress Judith Cocks (1638) and her husband, Richard Cocks, who first lived in the old house which preceded Eastnor Castle; John Lord Somers, Lord High Chancellor (1650-1716), by Kneller; William III., by Van Keulen; and there are examples of Kneller, Lely, and other artists.

The Drawing Room was decorated from the designs of Pugin, and bears every trace of his conscientious hand, and his mastery of the details of mediæval art. The fan tracery and the panelled roof are quite typical of his style, as is the richly sculptured fireplace, with the family tree above it, which shows the descent of the Earls Somers from the families of Plantagenet, Berkeley, Russell of Strensham, Treadway, and Nash. At either end of the room are fine pieces of tapestry, depicting "The Defeat of Darius" and "The Family of Darius Visiting Alexandria," both from the designs of Le Brun. Four other tapestry panels were given by Elizabeth Lady Hardwicke to her daughter Lady Catherine Somers. The magnificent chandelier is of brass, and of forty lights; it was designed by Pugin after a famous example in Nuremberg Cathedral.

In the Octagon Saloon are portraits of Algernon Sidney, Henrietta Maria, the Countess of Rochester, and other well-known people, the artists being Rembrandt, Van Dyck, Lely, Reynolds, Watts, and Raeburn. There are pictures also by great Italian masters like Ghirlandajo, Bellini, Gentile da Fabriano, and Tintoretto. The Library is also a noble room, richly designed, and beautifully adorned, containing among its treasures the great collection of books made by Dr. Nash, the historian of Worcestershire. Above the books the walls of the Library are hung with Gobelin tapestry, which was taken from Fontainebleau during the three days' revolution, in the time of Louis Philippe, and is considered among the very best examples of Gobelin tapestry in England. The Small Library, the Inner Hall, wherein hang many famous pictures, and the corridors and other parts of the house contain many notable and beautiful works by great masters. The tapestry throughout is most beautiful, and in this respect Eastnor Castle has few rivals in England.



FIFTEENTH CENTURY ARMOUR.