OCKWELLS MANOR, BERKSHIRE.

IT is but a walk of some two miles through the water-meadows from the gateway of the Jesus Hospital at Bray, on the Thames, to the old house of Ockwells, and, as we see its ancient timber front, enriched beyond almost any of its compeers, rising above the hedgerows, we bethink us that it is something of a phenomenon that this quaint dwelling of wood should have kinship with another famous timber mansion standing far away—with the venerable Hall of Speke by the Mersey.

It was a member of the old house of Norreys, or Norris, of Speke, one Richard le Norreys, holding the sinecure office of "cook" to Eleanor of Provence, Queen of Henry III., that received the Manor of Ockholt, or Ockwells, in Berkshire, at a fee farm rent of forty shillings, in 1267. Here the King is said to have had a hunting-lodge within easy reach of the Royal Castle of Windsor. More than a century after Richard le Norreys, the "cook," had received the manor in fee, it fell to John Norreys, second son by his second marriage of Sir Henry Norreys of Speke. This John must be regarded as the real founder of the great line of the Berkshire house of Norreys, which gave many notable men to the State. John's half-brother, William, was the great-grandfather of another John Norreys, who established a second family of the name at Fyfield, also in Berkshire. The great-grandson of John whom we have described as the "founder" of his family upon the acres by the Thames, was the



THE DRAWING-ROOM.