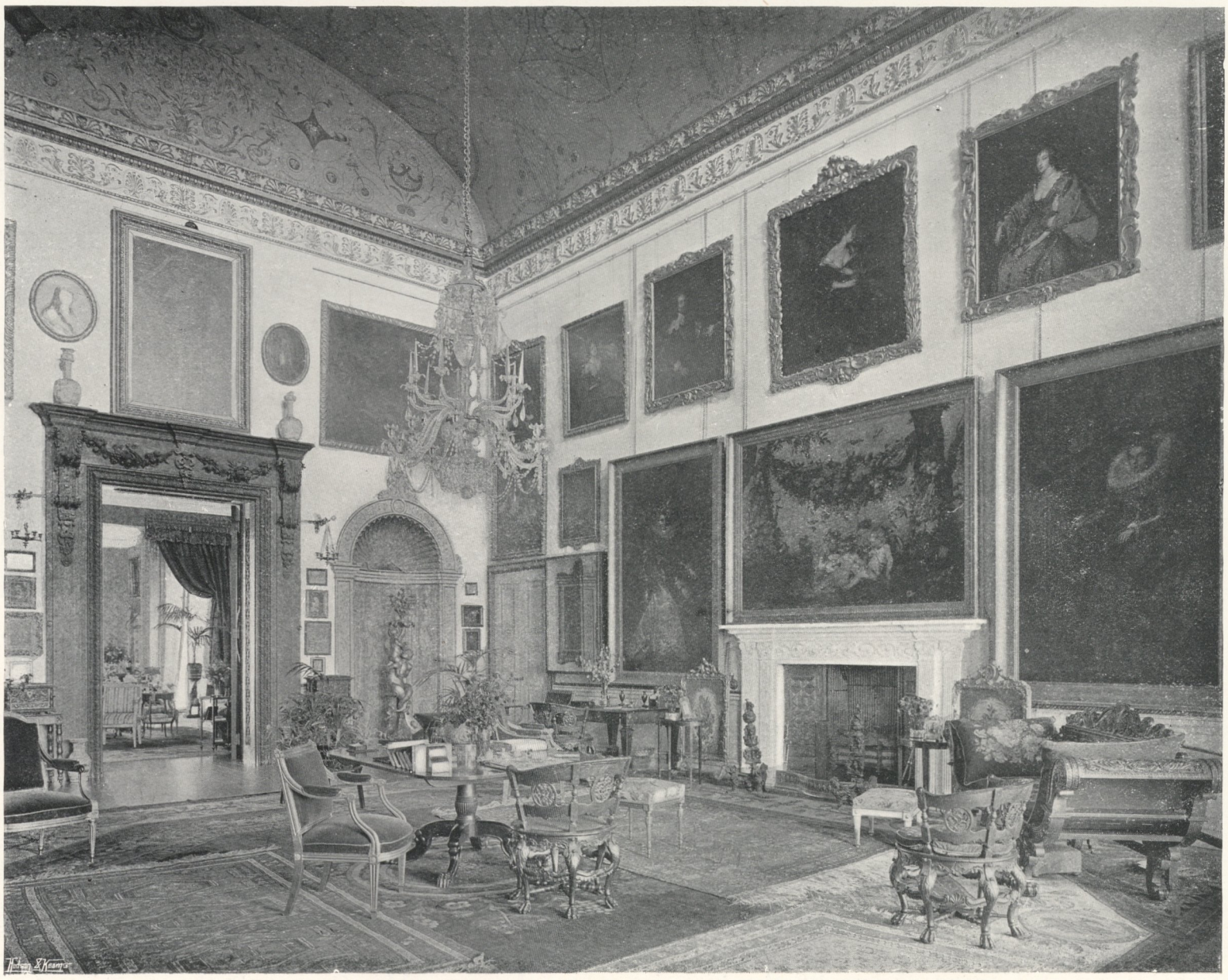
KINGSTON LACY,

DORSET.

MANY and varied in the realms of architecture, of the art of the painter and sculptor, and of the work of the decorator's hand, are the things that attract us in this famous Dorsetshire house, which lies within some two miles of old Wimborne Minster on the Blandford road. The place owes its name in the first place to some king of early times, and in the next to its having been possessed by the great house of Lacy, Earls of Lincoln. It then had the good fortune to come into possession of the old family of Bankes, and Sir Ralph Bankes began the house shortly after the Restoration. Sir John Bankes, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, who had preceded him, was a remarkable man in his time, of high professional reputation, and of wealth rapidly growing. Before being raised to the Bench, the future Chief Justice represented the Crown in the famous case of John Hampden. He adhered steadily to the King's cause, but, for a time, earned the Royal displeasure by caution and moderation, and was regarded favourably by the Parliament, which requested that he should be continued in his office. He had purchased the estate of Corfe Castle from the widow of Sir Edward Coke, and his wife, Lady Mary, will ever be famous for the heroic stand she made there during a period of nearly three years, in which there were really two sieges. The assailants were compelled to draw off at the end of the first of them, but finally the



THE SALOON.