of Cursitor Baron of the Exchequer, and for a great many years represented Corfe Castle and Wareham in Parliament.

Having said so much about the family of the possessors, we may turn to the house itself, built, as we have said, by Sir Ralph Bankes. In the pediment of the north front appears the date 1663, which makes it impossible for the work to have been carried on under Inigo Jones, as some have suggested, for that architect died in 1652, but his kinsman Webb may well have been engaged upon it. It has since undergone many changes, its old red brick having been faced with stone, and much constructive work has been done over the main cornice. Sir Charles Barry was the architect, and many features of the Italian style were added about the year 1854. The mansion is a building of stately character, with much dignity in its features, and having fine balustraded terraces and gardens for its foreground.

Within, the house which Sir Ralph



THE SPANISH ROOM.