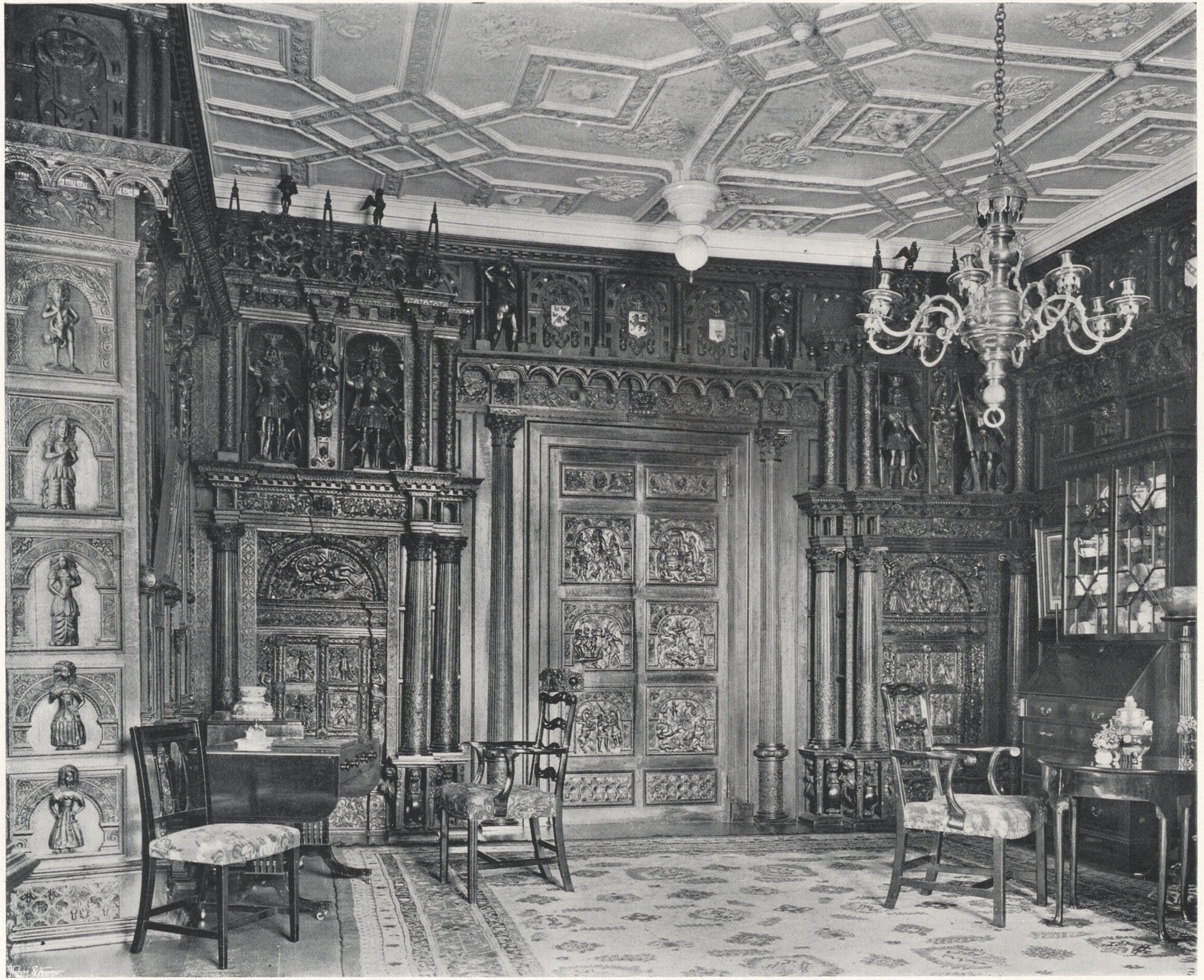
THE GRANGE, HONITON, DEVON.

ON the borderland where Devon, Somerset and Dorset join are the mass of lofty heights, with long flat tops, covered with ancient furze and new pine woods, and deep precipitous coombes, with rich pasture at their bases, known as the Blackdown Hills, of which the series of cliffs and coombes bordering the great bay of Charmouth, from Sidmouth eastwards to Beer, are the most southerly extension. North-east of Honiton there is, on the top of one of these hills, the largest prehistoric camp in Devonshire, known as Hembury Castle. Below it, in the parish of Broadhembury, is the beautiful old house of Grange, the splendid Jacobean drawing-room of which is here illustrated.

The estate was part of the Church lands purchased by Sir Henry Wriottesley, afterwards Earl of Southampton and Lord Chancellor, having belonged to the Abbey of Dunkeswell. Not far off, at Killerton, was seated the ancient Devonshire family of Drewe, and one of them obtained a high legal post, being Recorder of London and Serjeant-at-Law in the reign of Elizabeth, in the last year of whose reign the Recorder, Edward Drewe of Sharpham and Killerton, bought the property from the Earl of Southampton, and began to build the house at Broadhembury. The ancient grange or barn of the abbey gave it its name. The Serjeant and Recorder died in 1622, and was succeeded by his son Thomas, who completed the house, and was also knighted by James I. at his coronation. He sold Killerton to Sir Arthur Acland, whose descendant, the present Sir Thomas Acland, now owns it. But the Drewes continued to be one of the leading Devonshire families and to own Grange, the last of the family, daughter and co-heiress of Mr. Edward Simcoe Drewe of Grange, High Sheriff of Devon in 1845, marrying Mr. John Arthur Locke of Northmoor House, Dulverton. In the eighteenth century a good deal of mischief seems to have been done, under the guise of improvements, to Grange. The court on the western side was filled in, and the original grey stone was in part overlaid with stucco, and the stone-mullioned windows were removed from part of the front. Only one remains on the eastern front. How many fine old Elizabethan houses were treated in this way, with a view to bringing them into line with a very faint recollection of what the owners thought was "classical," the pages of this volume more than once show. Still, the effect is not always bad. It is the substitution of plaster for stone, not the insertion of sash windows and classic cornices or pediments along a whole front, which does mischief. When the house was described by Jones in the "Views of Seats of Noblemen and Gentlemen" in 1829, it was believed to represent the letter I, standing for the initial of the name of James I., as the favourite E shape did for that of Elizabeth. But as the house was planned and partly built before his accession, the only intentional change needed would have been to shorten the wings and leave out the central projection. At the northern end is a quadrangle believed to be part of the original buildings of the abbey farm, and a stone fireplace existing there suggests considerable antiquity. The house was formerly approached by an avenue of silver firs of great size and age, some of which remain, and it is probable that the entrance may have been originally through the very fine gate of hammered iron which now forms the entrance of the old garden. The design is of scrollwork, surmounted by the arms of the Drewe family, whose portraits formerly filled the house, and whose arms, with those of a number of distinguished families allied by marriage, still decorate the rooms in oak and in plaster. The property was recently purchased by Colonel Gundry, the present owner. The house contains a portion probably dating from the days of the abbey grange; but the Drewes must be given full credit for the fine chimneys, the vanes, many of which were pierced with the initials of the various owners and their wives, and the extremely good panelling and mouldings of the interior, work which equals any of its kind in Devonshire.

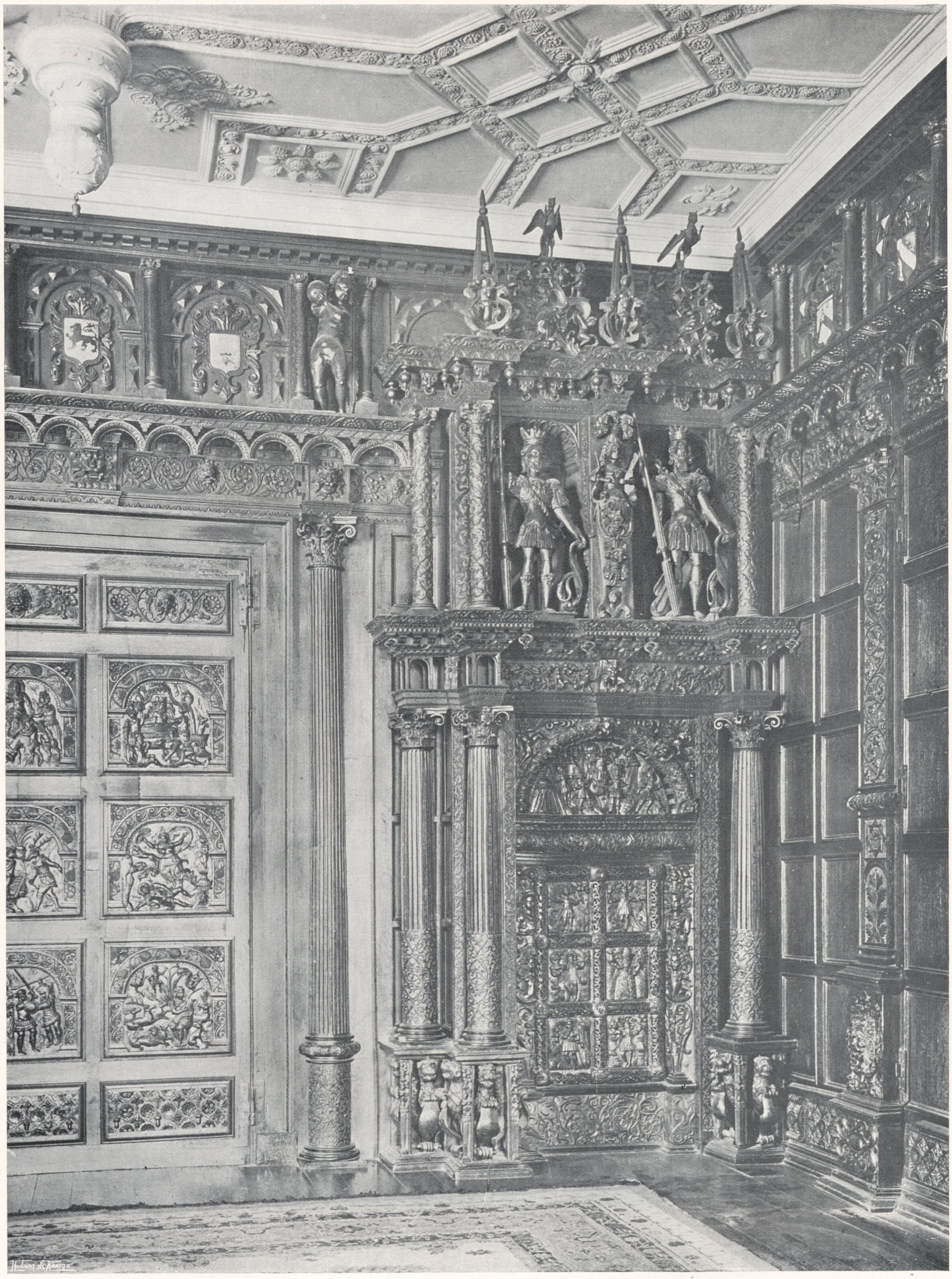
The landings of the principal staircase are inlaid with their arms, and some of the principal rooms on the first floor are oak panelled and very highly decorated. The West Country habit of cutting armorial bearings in stone, of great size and in high relief, over the chimney-pieces is also seen here to advantage. The fine old Tudor house of Whitestaunton, near Chard, the property of the Elton family, should be compared with Grange in this respect, while the plaster-work in parts of it may possibly have been done by the same artists. In one of the rooms at Grange is a large achievement of arms in stone, showing the bearings of Sir Thomas Drewe, impaled with those of his wife, the daughter of Sir Edward Moore of Ockham



THE DRAWING-ROOM.



THE WEST SIDE OF THE DRAWING-ROOM.



NORTH-WEST CORNER OF THE DRAWING-ROOM.

in Hampshire. The Drewe arms are also seen in painted and embossed plaster in the bedrooms. The great Spanish architects used heraldry so effectively and splendidly in all kinds of buildings that it seems just possible that the Devonshire squires, so many of whom had connections who went abroad in various capacities, whether of trade, adventure, or war, had brought back with them the taste for this kind of ornament. It is seen in its highest development at Grange in the oak drawing-room, the most beautiful and elaborate chamber in the house. The general design is as follows : Each side is divided up by flat, highly-decorated pilasters, springing from bases which divide also a low decorated dado. Between the pairs of pilasters are fifteen flat panels in rows of three. Above these is a rich arcade, with pendants suggesting a second arcade, and in the compartments, divided each from the other by a small Corinthian column in full relief, is a coat of arms under an elaborate arch. These coats run the whole way round the room, each shield charged with the bearings of the Drewes, and of the families into which they intermarried. Among these are Fitzwilliam, Moore, Champernowne, Le Baron, Le Cross, Wynyard, Pridaux, Sparrow, Bidgood, Davie, Cholwick and many more West Country names. The ceiling is of geometrical design in plaster, with pendants. The very fine and boldly-designed mantel-piece is surmounted by the Royal arms and supporters, admirably designed, and two atrocious female figures, in Elizabethan petticoats, standing for "Peace" and "Plenty." The door at the western end of the room is carved with scenes from Ovid's "Metamorphoses." The writer of an interesting and very full account of this old house, in the *Devon Notes and Queries*, one of those excellent quarterlies devoted to local subjects now, fortunately, commonly published in our county towns, states that before the dispersal of the Drewe possessions at Grange, the muniment room contained a very curious pair of "armouries" kept at the house. In one were no less than 3,600 coats of arms, arranged in alphabetical order as to the names of the owners. The arms were painted on hand-made paper, and bound in vellum. Eighteen shields were on each page, all named and described in sixteenth century writing. They were by no means confined to the coats of Devonshire families. The second scroll was also a general armoury, but arranged in order of the annals in the coats—first lions, then lesser beasts, birds, fishes, reptiles and insects! There were upwards of 5,040 coats of arms emblazoned in this odd heraldic natural history.

A word should, perhaps, be said as to the very remarkable country lying at the back of Grange, and towards the sea. These Blackdown Hills are in their way much more remarkable than any other group on the South Coast of England. It was their structure, and the evidence of the section of the series of no less than five precipices, each separated by a "combe" and facing the sea, which caused Dean Buckland to think that they were direct evidence, *in situ*, of the Noachian Deluge. The fact is that they were once topped with chalk, which chalk remains in full quantity at Beer, but gradually shelves away upwards, till on Salcombe Hill nothing is left of it except the remains of the flints formerly embedded in it. But on the flat tops of Salcombe Hill, Dunscombe and Lincombe, millions of these flints remain, and among them a very large proportion of what were once seashells, especially sea urchins and also sea sponges. The older geologists thought that they had found there direct evidence that "the Flood" had raised the sea more than 500ft., and had caused it to overflow these flat hilltops, leaving all the shells and sea beasts on the surface. The red marl, which lies at the foot of the cliff in the lower strata, is also interesting geologically. It yielded the first specimen of the gigantic Cheirotherium, the footprints of which, on hardened sandstone, had long caused great curiosity. When it was dug out the fishermen stated that they had seen the bones of such beasts before, and that they were known as "marl-toads." On these cliffs a scarce form of wild pea grows, which is the favourite food of that rare butterfly the Lulworth Skipper, which may be caught in numbers by those who care to seek them.