LANGLEYS,

ESSEX.

GREAT WALTHAM is a village on the tree-bordered highway between Chelmsford and Braintree. It is no further from London than Southend, from which an army of active Cockneys advance daily upon the City; but mid-Essex is as yet without even a week-end crowd to break its village silences. In Great Waltham parish is the manor of the Langleys, who held it in the days when Agincourt was fought. But in the days of the Tudors the Everards had succeeded the Langleys in possession; and when King James came from Scotland in 1603, making knights to right and left of him, one of those upon whose shoulders fell the honour-conveying sword-tap was the eldest son of the Everards of Langleys. If it was he who gave us the chimney-pieces and ceilings of our illustrations, we heartily approve of the sword-tap, for they are quite remarkable examples of the stone and plaster work of this age. The latter, in the cases both of the barrel-shaped ceiling in the library and of the flat one in the dining-room, are of the type which lays stress upon its intricate panelling. The shapes of the panels are elaborate, their ribs deep and the rib fillings rich; the decoration of the panels themselves is comparatively simple, consisting of flat scrolls and strappings, in the case of the dining-room relieved by occasional masks and shields. The ceiling in the long gallery at Blickling bears some resemblance to these, but is on a bigger and more ambitious scale, and, therefore, finds scope for a series of large panels with figure subjects. But ceilings quite cognate to those at Langleys nowhere appear in this volume, though coeval examples are very numerous. And we may say the same of the two chimney-pieces; they fully belong to their period, but differ decidedly from their fellows. Utterly opposed as they are to the Bolsover series, they resemble them in the one quality of originality. It is usual to find them with caryatides; strapwork and arabesques are the stock-in-trade decorative motifs for pilaster and cornice; panels of Peace and Plenty, of Justice and Charity are frequent; bas-reliefs of Biblical or heroic subjects are not rare. But look through the series of Jacobean houses which we present, and you will find no exact counterpart of the Langleys chimney-pieces any more than of the



SOUTH FRONT.



THE DRAWING-ROOM.



THE DINING-ROOM.



CEILING OF DRAWING-ROOM.

Langleys ceilings. Sir Anthony Everard certainly discovered craftsmen with ideas and fancies of their own to decorate the house which he left no son to inherit. His nephew Richard was a politician rather than a builder. Although King Charles made him a knight and a baronet early in his reign, he had a republican mind. In the troublous days of 1643 he was a committee-man of the Parliament, which picked him as a safe man for Sheriff of Essex at a time when he was busy with the work of raising that new model army which was to scatter Rupert's Cavaliers. Yet, like most of his surviving committee-men, he made his peace with the restored Stuarts.

Sir Hugh, the third baronet, was, when young, a soldier with the army of Flanders. The recklessness of speech of that army is a proverb among us, and that it gave bad schooling to the heir of Langleys is seen in the fact that from this time the hand of the Everards holds weakly to their encumbered estate. Nevertheless, he brought up three sons, and put them out in the world to serve the country. The youngest was killed on the Hampshire, fighting under the Lord Maynard, a kinsman of the family. The history of the second is told in an epitaph in Great Waltham Church, the short history of a lad who left Felstead School on September 24th, 1700, and within a week had sailed in a great tempest to convey King William from Holland. Two years later he was the third to jump ashore when English longboats were making for the Spanish beach, and when the Spanish horse charged upon his boat's party the boy killed the Spanish captain with his own hand. "But now, reader," says our marble, "turn thy triumphant songs into dirges," for, after three short years afloat, Hugh Everard went down with ship and crew by the Goodwins on that dreadful November day of the great storm of 1703. The inscription calls him the "age's wonder," but, fortunately for England, he was probably but a boy of a type which our country still breeds.

The elder brother of these young sailors was Sir Richard Everard, fourth baronet. His father's debts had made Langleys too great a house for the son, who sold the old place. The new lord of Langleys, Samuel Tufnell, who was born in 1682, was descended from the Tufnailes of Middlesex and Herts, who had possessions in those counties early in 1500. He purchased the property, which then consisted of the house and eighty-seven acres of land, in 1711. Dying in 1756, his successor discovered £150,000 and three caskets of jewels behind the books in the old library, the specie having been sold out of the funds for the purpose of purchasing further estates in the county. His grandson's great-grandson, Colonel W. Nevill Tufnell, is now lord of Langleys and head of a family from which have come several distinguished Tufnells, among whom we may note Henry Tufnell, a Whig politician who held office under Lord John Russell, Thomas Jolliffe Tufnell, a pioneer of military hygiene, and Wyndham Tufnell, Bishop of Brisbane.

We know very little of the old manor house which sheltered the Everards, but when Samuel Tufnell bought the estate in 1711 it was probably neglected and decayed, and he largely rebuilt it, though he retained the original shape with deep wings. But all the existing features, such as windows and roof, are Georgian rather than Jacobean, and the centre excrescence was

added in 1820, the pediment enclosing the shield and crest of the Tufnells.

In the interior he fortunately preserved the ancient character of the two rooms which form the subject of our illustrations. This work is certainly a relic of the old house of the Everards. Samuel Tufnell, the re-builder, was something of an antiquary, and notes in his own hand show that he kept a record of the shields of arms in the old house of the Everards. Several of these shields were noted as being "in the cieling of curious frett work," a phrase which describes the ceilings of our pictures, although the shields which once bore the armorial honours of the Everards are now painted with the alliances of the Tufnells, who have impressed their characters and their ownership upon the house which the Everards built but lost.



CEILING OF DINING-ROOM.