

had the house encased in white brick. In the following year, however, Pitt set his heart on returning to Hayes, and, thanks to the kind offices of Lady Chatham, the new squire consented to reconvey the estate; and it continued to be his favourite residence for the rest of his life. Here it was that General Wolfe dined with Lord Chatham on the evening before he left England for Quebec, his only fellow guest being Lord Temple. Here, during his attacks of the gout, Lord Chatham was visited by George II. and his successor, as well as by such plain, untitled celebrities as Benjamin

speaking in the House of Lords upon American rights; and here he lingered till the 11th of May, when he breathed his last. "His bed at Hayes," writes Macaulay, "was watched to the last with anxious tenderness by his wife and children, and he well deserved their care. Too often haughty and wayward to others, to these he had been almost effeminately kind. He had through life been dreaded by political opponents, and regarded even with more awe than love by his political associates. But no fear seems to have mingled with the affection which his fondness, constantly overflowing in



HOLWOOD, ABOUT 1800. (From a print in the British Museum. See page 112.)

Franklin; and here, while keeping aloof from London, he pulled the secret wires of the political machine, so as to be known to Walpole and his contemporaries as "the oracle at Hayes." Many details of Lord Chatham's connection with Hayes may be gathered from Lord Stanhope's "Life of Pitt." But though a near relative of the family, his lordship is incorrect in stating that he died in the "best" bed-room of the house. The room traditionally pointed out—at all events from a date before his illustrious son's death—as that in which he died is a small bed-chamber on the first floor, at the south-west angle of the mansion, with two windows, the one of a southerly and the other of a westerly aspect. To this room he was carried on the 10th of April, 1778, having been stricken down by the hand of death on the previous evening while

a thousand endearing forms, had inspired in the little circle at Hayes."

The remains of Lord Chatham were brought from Hayes, and lay in state on the 7th and 8th of June in the Painted Chamber at Westminster, in the neighbourhood of the Abbey, beneath whose roof he was laid to his last rest.

Having been sold after Lord Chatham's death, and having passed through several intermediate hands, Hayes Place was purchased three or four years ago from the Traills by Mr. E. A. Hambro', a son of Baron Hambro', of Milton Abbey, Dorsetshire, who now occupies it, and has much improved it, at the same time changing it as little as possible. The apartment which now serves as an ante-room to the library has oak carvings over the doors, which were doubtless placed there by Lord Chat-