

He lies buried under a fine altar-tomb in the churchyard at Epsom. It is on record that the first brood of rooks—from which the colony of rooks that so long frequented the Temple Gardens, in London, had origin—was taken thither by Sir William Northey from the Woodcote estate.

Higher up the hill, and almost adjoining the grand stand and race-course, are the trees of Woodcote Park, the residence of Mrs. Brooks. This is a very fine and extensive stone building, of which part was formerly a monastery, the arcades of which form the wings of the present house. The mansion stands in its own grounds, which are about 350 acres in extent, and contain a small lake stocked with swans and other water-fowl. A double flight of steps with balustrades leads to the entrance. The apartments are decorated in the style of the era of the first French Revolution. In the morning-room, which is the first on the right of the entrance-hall, is a very fine chimney-piece of Carrara marble, carved to represent the fable of the Dog and his Shadow. From this apartment we pass to the drawing-room, where chiefly to be noticed are the beautifully-worked Spitalfields damask curtains. The gilded mouldings and decorations of the walls, though of great age, appear as if freshly executed. The ceiling is by Verrio, with the exception of the centre-piece, which is by a later hand and of inferior execution. The ceiling of the Painted Room represents Apollo and the Muses; on it was formerly a series of panels illustrative of the story of the old Greek romance of Daphne and Chloe, beginning with the birth of the child and ending with the wedding breakfast. These were designed, in 1718, by Philip, Duke of Orleans, Regent of France during the minority of Louis XV., and were brought from Versailles. They have now been removed to a hall on the first floor. Entering the library, we notice an exceedingly fine painting on the ceiling, by Rubens, which represents a child borne by an eagle. This has been erroneously stated to be a picture of the "Bringing of Ganymede." It is really founded on an old family legend. In this room is an alcove, now lined with books, which formerly was a separate room, and was used as a bed-chamber by the unfortunate Frederick, Prince of Wales, son of George II. The dividing wall has been removed so as to make it now a part of the library.

Leaving the library, we next come to a room, now unused, which was formerly a Roman Catholic chapel. The ceiling is painted by Verrio with a representation of the Ascension. In Brayley's "Surrey" it is stated that after the marriage of Elizabeth, the co-heiress of the Mynns of Horton and

Woodcote, with Richard Evelyn, "that gentleman, being struck with the far preferable situation of Woodcote Park, determined to erect a mansion there for the owners of the estate; and such a house he built, together with a chapel and a library. The two latter were ornamented by Grinling Gibbons and Verrio, who had been recommended to Mr. Evelyn by his brother John." Between the chapel and the library is a small ante-chamber, formerly used as a dressing-room for the ball-room, which is unoccupied, being left in the same unfinished state as it was seventy years ago. In the bed-rooms are some old mahogany doors and presses, the former curiously carved, the latter made from timber grown on the estate. The door-locks in this house are very remarkable. They are of Italian workmanship, and bear upon them, in the midst of rich ornamental borders, the coronet of Lord Baltimore, whose family once possessed the estate. This nobleman brought from Italy the paintings which surmount several of the doors; he also superintended the building of the present front of the house. In his time was brought from the Vatican the painted ceiling of one of the dressing-rooms; and the Blue and White room contains a gilded bed placed there by the earl.

Just beyond our area, south-west of Woodcote, is Ashted, till lately the seat of the Hon. Mrs. Howard, and now that of Mr. Thomas Lucas. The place is of some historic, or at all events literary, interest, inasmuch as it is mentioned by John Evelyn in his "Diary." In 1665 he writes:—"I supp'd at my Lady Mordaunt's at Ashted, where was a room hung with *Pintado*, full of figures great and small, prettily representing sundry trades and occupations of the Indians, with their habits; here supp'd also Dr. Duke, a learned and facetious gentleman." Again, under date of May 10, 1684, he writes:—"I went to visit my brother in Surrey. Call'd by the way at Ashted, where Sir Robert Howard (Auditor to the Exchequer) entertain'd me very civilly at his new-built house, which stands in a Park on the Downe, the avenue South; tho' downe hill to the house, which is not great, but with the outhouses very convenient. The staircase is painted by Verrio with the storie of Astrea; amongst other figures is the Picture of the Painter himselfe, and not unlike him; the rest is well done, onely the columns did not at all please me; there is also Sir Robert's own Picture in an oval: the whole in *fresco*. The place has this greate defect, that there is no water but what is drawn up by horses from a very deepe well."

Close by Woodcote House and Park, and almost adjoining the town of Epsom, is Durdans, the seat