

Several engravings of the house and grounds at Esher have been published at different times. One of the earliest is a bird's-eye view by Knyff and Kip, taken when the estate (with the manor of Esher) belonged to Mr. Thomas Cotton, in the reign of William and Mary. Another and larger plan, including both fronts of Mr. Pelham's mansion, together with four ornamental buildings, styled the Temple, Grotto, Hermitage, and Thatched House, was engraved by Rocque in 1737. Another

Aubrey, in his "Survey," tells us that Waynfleet, who held the see of Winchester from 1447 to 1486, erected a "stately brick mansion" on the banks of the Mole, within the park of Esher. It is described by Aubrey as "a noble house, built of the best burnt brick that I ever sawe, with a stately gate-house and hall. This stately house, a fit palace for a prince, was bought, about 1666, by a vintner of London, who is since broke, and the house was sold and pulled down to the ground about 1678."



WOLSEY'S TOWER.

view, showing the east front, was published in the same year by Buck; and in 1759 a large engraving of the west front was made by Luke Sullivan.

The gateway above mentioned, though it stands low, forms a most picturesque object when seen from the flat meadows on the opposite side of the stream, backed as it is by the dark foliage of the trees in the park which surrounds Esher Place; and it must be owned that it bears a striking resemblance to Wolsey's Gateway at Ipswich, and to the towers of Layer Marney and Leigh's Priory, in Essex. It owes its erection, however, to William of Waynfleet, Bishop of Winchester, nearly a century before the day of Wolsey's pride.

He adds:—"Over the gate-house, and on several other parts of the building he placed the armorial bearings of his own family and those of his see, sculptured in stone; and on the timber-work of the roof of the hall were carvings of angels supporting escutcheons, on which were inscribed in scrolls the words 'Tibi Christi,' and in the windows the sentence 'Sit Deo Gracia' was several times repeated." The interior of the tower comprises three storeys, but the apartments are small, and the floorings for the most part are so sadly decayed that it is dangerous to enter them. There is, however, within one of the octagonal turrets a very skilfully-wrought staircase of brick, in a good state of preservation, and in the roofing of which the