

"Cabal," the appointed asylum for the deposed James II., and the birthplace of the great statesman and general, John, Duke of Argyll, Ham well merits a prominent place in the rank of England's historic houses. It is full of memories, and its peaceful aspect on a bright summer's day, with the sunny meadows in front stretching down to the Thames, cannot fail to fill the beholder with a sense of mysterious longing to know the tales which its dark red walls enclose, and to recall the

high walls, except where an apparently open space is guarded by some very handsome old iron gates, of admirable design and of great massiveness; and even were they opened—an operation which has not been effected for many long years—a sunk fence still prevents all access from the front. A small side door, however, answers the purpose, and admits the visitor who is fortunate enough to have his passport into the gravelled court.



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powerful minds and stately figures who moved amid the shade of the trees which surround it, and soften while they throw out the bold and graceful outlines of the time-worn building. And yet Time's ruthless hand has here done less to mark its flight than in many another structure; the house has not been suffered to fall into decay, and the proofs of the magnificence of the period in which it was erected remain undisturbed and yet untarnished, for the work was well and solidly done, down to the minutest details.

The house does not stand high, and it is only on a near approach that its beauty is seen to advantage, and then it appears—as, indeed, it is—most difficult of entrance, for it is quite surrounded by

It was built in the beginning of the seventeenth century by Sir Thomas Vavasour, and though said to have been designed as a residence for Henry, Prince of Wales, it does not appear that he ever inhabited it—owing, possibly, to his early death, at the age of nineteen. The house would appear to have been finished in 1610, as that date, with the words "VIVAT REX," form a part of the ornamental carvings on the principal door. Sir Thomas Vavasour held the post of Marshal of the Household to James I., and in 1611 he was appointed judge of the then newly-constituted Marshal's Court, conjointly with Sir Francis Bacon, then Solicitor-General, and afterwards Lord Chancellor. From Sir Thomas Vavasour it passed into the