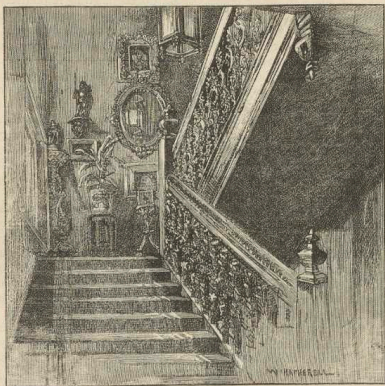


Dissenting chapels, besides a Wesleyan Collegiate Institution of an important character.

The living, anciently a chapelry to Kingston, was, in 1769, constituted, together with Kingston and the hamlets of Ham and Hatch, a separate and distinct vicarage, "by the name of the Vicarage of Kingston-upon-Thames and Sheen, otherwise Richmond." The increase of population which has taken place since that time, however, has made it necessary to build a district church in

£2,000 was spent upon it in improvements and embellishment. The interior, which is low, but spacious, comprehends nave, with side aisles and chancel. There are four Doric columns on each side, and the nave opens to the chancel by a wide Tudor arch, over which is a large gilt carving of the royal arms, and the initials G. R. At the west end is a fine organ, built by Knight in 1770, the expense being jointly defrayed by their Majesties George III. and Queen Charlotte,



STAIRCASE IN PALACE GATEWAY.

each of the places above-mentioned. The patrons are the Provost and Fellows of King's College, Cambridge, to whom the right of presentation was sold by George Hardinge, Esq., the lay improver, in 1786.

The old church, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, stands in a central situation between George Street and old Paradise Row. A chapel at "Schene" is mentioned in a record of as remote a date as 1339, but it was probably built much earlier, the tower being evidently of more ancient construction. It is very massive, embattled, of stone and flints, and has a clock and good peal of eight bells. The body of the church, which is of brick, has been erected at different periods. It was much enlarged in 1750, and in 1823

and by a subscription of the parishioners. The church was restored in 1866, at a cost of £4,000. The registers, begun in 1583, are said to be perfect from 1682, except that of marriages from 1751 to 1754.

The monuments are very numerous. Amongst the most interesting are, on the north side of the chancel, a mural monument inscribed in memory of "the late virtuous and religious ladie, the Lady Dorothy Wright, wife to Sir George Wright, Knt, who died in 1631"—the "ladie" and her husband are represented by small figures, under an arch, kneeling at a desk, over bas-reliefs of their three sons and four daughters; a tablet to the memory of the Rev. George Wakefield, "nine years Vicar of Kingston, and minister of this