

tury, and stands on the site of the one occupied by the Duchess of Marlborough. It is a large stone-built mansion, and has about twelve acres of pleasure-grounds reserved with it; and handsome villas of the Queen Anne type, each in its own grounds, are now springing up on all sides around it.

Standing, as it does, so high, the village of Wimbleton has never had an overflowing supply of water, and accordingly the late Lord Spencer had caused to be sunk on the Wimbledon Park House Estate an Artesian well, which is upwards of 560 feet in depth.

Lord Spencer is still lord of the Manor of Wimbleton. In this manor the custom of "Borough English" prevails: namely, lands descend not to the eldest, but to the youngest, son or daughter.

Having spoken thus far of the manor of Wimbleton and its successive owners, we will now proceed to give an account of the magnificent mansion which was once the glory of the place, but all traces of which have long since passed away.

From a "Survey of the Manor of Wymbleton, *alias* Wimbleton," made in 1649, read before the Society of Antiquaries in 1792 by Mr. John Caley, F.A.S., and printed in the "Archæologia," Vol. X., Wimbledon Hall would appear to have been a very large and well-built mansion. The "survey" begins with a minute description of the various domestic offices "below stairs," such as the kitchen, the larder, the "landrie roome," the "foulding roome," the "sweetmeate roome," the still house, scullery, the common beer cellars, wine cellars, steward's chamber, &c. The gardener's chamber and the "lower Spanish room" are then described: the latter was "floored with white paynted tyle, waynscotted round, the most part of which waynscote is varnished greene, and spotted with stars of gould, seeled over head, and fitted for the present with boxes, wherein oringe and pomegranat trees are planted. . . . One other roome, called the Stone Gallery, floored with squared stone, one hundred and eight foot long, seeled overhead, pillored and arched with gray marble, lying on the east end of the said manor-house, waynscotted round with oaken waynscot, varnished with greene, and spotted with stars of gould, and benched all along the sides and angles thereof." The middle part of this gallery is described as fitted with six windows, or "leaved doors," of wainscot and glass. The grotto, placed in the middle of the stone gallery, was floored with painted tile, and in the arch and sides were "sundry sorts of shells of greate lustre and ornament, formed into the shapes of men, lyons, serpents, antick formes, and other rare devices,"

&c. The great hall is described as wainscoted round eight feet high, the upper part being "spotted with stars of gould." At the lower end of the hall was an arched screen of double wainscot, on which were "three chalices or brass boles well gilt." Then follows a description of the parlours and other chambers. The two staircases, "twenty foote square," were "topped with turrets of a great height, covered with blue slate, on the middle pinacles whereof stand two fairer gilded weathercockes, perspicuous to the cuntry round about." The east stairs led from the marble parlour to the great gallery and the dining-room, and the west stairs led principally to the rooms on the second floor. The staircases were adorned with a large picture of Henry IV. of France on horseback, with "landskippes of battayles, anticks, Heaven and Hell, and other curious worke." Under the stairs was "a little compleate roome, called the den of lyons, floored with paynted deale cheker worke, wherein is one ovall marble table, in a frame of wood: this roome is painted round with lyons and leopards, and is a good ornament to the staires and the marble parlor, severed therefrom with rayled doors." Other rooms and galleries are then described, together with two courts, one lying twenty-six steps higher than the other; and the survey continues thus:—"The scite of this manor-house being placed on the side slipp of a rising ground, renders it to stand of that height that betwixt the basis of the brick wall of the sayd lower court, and the hall door of the sayd manor-house there are five severall assents, consisting of threescore and ten steps, which are distinguished in a very graceful manner; to witt, from the parke to a payre of rayled gates, set betwixt two large pillars of brick; in the middle of the wall standing on the north side of the sayd lower court is the first assent, consisting of eight steps of good freestone, layed in a long square, within which gates, level with the highest of those eight steps, is a pavement of freestone, leading to a payr of iron gates, rayled on each side thereof with turned ballasters of freestone, within which is a little paved court leading to an arched vault neatly pillowed with brick, conteyning on each side of the pillars a little roome well arched, serving for cellaridge of botteled wines. On each side of this vault are a payre of staires of stone steps, twentie-three steps in assent, eight foote nine inches broad; meeting an even landing-place in the height thereof, leading from the aforesayd gates unto the lower court and make the second assent; from the height of this assent a pavement of Flanders bricke