

CHEVENING HOUSE.

BY CANON SCOTT ROBERTSON.

ROMAN MONUMENTS.

IN the garden of Chevening House there are several ancient Roman monuments, which were sent home from Spain in or about the year 1708, by General Stanhope, who purchased Chevening nine years after that date.

These Roman monuments were presented to the General, by the *Cuerpo Municipal* of Tarragona, as a token of gratitude for the great services he had rendered to that town and to Spain.

One of the monuments bears an important inscription, which has been printed in the *Anthologia Veterum Latinorum* (curâ Burmanni, Amsterdam, A.D. 1773), vol. ii., p. xxxv. The editor of that edition of the *Anthologia* was not aware that this monument had been presented to General Stanhope, and by him transported to England.

Burman supposed that it still remained where it had been seen, in the seventeenth century by Andrew Schott, at Tarragona, "in angulo horti Commensalis Pocorrull."*

The late Earl Stanhope, the well-known historian, from whose memorandum printed in 1864 all my information is obtained, calls it a monument of the Blue Faction, *Factionis Venetae*, from the first words of the inscription, which speak of it as an altar dedicated to Fuscus, a member of that Faction. Lord Stanhope refers, in explanation of this term, to Gibbon's description of the remarkable divisions and strife which prevailed in ancient society, at Rome and Constantinople, between the Blue and Green Factions of the Circus.†

One or two lines of the inscription are defaced by a fracture in the monument, so that the perfect copy made by Schott, and printed in the *Anthologia*, is now valuable. Modern punctuation was inserted by Lord Stanhope in the following copy, to render it more intelligible:

* *Schedulæ Andreae Schotti manu exaratae in Bibliothecâ Regiâ Madridensi.*

† Gibbon's *History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, vol. vii., p. 78, ed. Dr. Milman.

" FATIONIS VENETAE FUSCO SACRAVIMUS ARAM,
 DE NOSTRO CERTI STUDIOSI ET BENE AMANTES;
 UT SCIRENT CUNCTI MONIMENTUM ET PIGNUS AMORIS.
 INTEGRA FAMA TIBI. LAUDEM CURSUS MERUISTI.
 CERTASTI MULTIS. NULLUM PAUPER TIMUISTI.
 INVIDIAM PASSUS SEMPER FORTIS TACUISTI;
 PULCHRE VIXISTI; FATO MORTALIS OBISTI.
 QUISQUIS HOMO ES QUÆRES TALEM. SUBSISTE VIATOR,
 PERLEGE SI MEMOR ES, SI NOSTI QUIS FUERIT VIR.
 FORTUNAM METUANT OMNES; DISCES TAMEN UNUM
 FUSCUS HABÈT (TITULOS MORTIS HABET) TUMULUM.
 CONTEGIT OSSA LAPIS. BENE HABET, FORTUNA, VALEBIS.
 FUNDIMUS INSONTI LACRIMAS, NUNC VINA. PRECAMUR
 UT JACEAS PLACIDE. NEMO TUI SIMILIS.

ΤΟΥΣ ΣΟΥΣ ΑΓΩΝΑΣ ΑΙΩΝ ΑΛΛΗΞΕΙ."

CHEVENING HOUSE.

This house is of three periods.

I. The central portion, or main building, was erected for RICHARD LENNARD, 13th LORD DACRE of the SOUTH, by Inigo Jones, between the years 1616 and 1630. His grandson, Thomas, Lord Dacre, was created Earl of Sussex by King Charles II., and died without male issue in 1715. The Earl's daughters sold Chevening, in 1717, to General Stanhope (a grandson of the 1st Earl of Chesterfield), who was created Earl Stanhope in the following year.

II. JAMES, 1st EARL STANHOPE, added shallow wings to the east and west sides of the house, erected large detached wings, north-east and north-west of the house, with which he connected them by means of two curved galleries. The lake, south of the house, was also formed by the first Earl. The works, being unfinished when he died in February 1721, were continued by his widow (*née* Lucy Pitt), an aunt of the great Earl of Chatham. She died in 1723.

III. CHARLES, 3rd EARL STANHOPE, who held the title from 1786 to 1816, hid the red bricks, employed by Inigo Jones, with a facing of cream-coloured mathematical tiles. He also added the stone pilasters upon the front, and all the stonework about the front door and about the basement. He removed the kitchen-garden (which had flanked the house east and west), and placed it on the north-west, across the road.

THE HALL.

The dimensions of the Hall, 31 feet by 28, were planned by Inigo Jones. The panelling was all renewed, or added, about 1720. Over

the doorway, inside, is a shield bearing a monogram of the word *Stanhope*, surmounted by an earl's coronet.

The fairy-like circular staircase of old oak was finished in or about 1722; it has 56 steps, 28 in each of its two tiers. Its design was chosen by the first Earl, when he saw one like it in the house of Captain Dubois, a Frenchman, in Brewer Street, Soho. Captain Dubois superintended the erection of the staircase here.

The arms which form trophies upon the walls belonged to a disbanded regiment of militia, and were given to Thomas Pitt, Earl of Londonderry, brother of the first Countess Stanhope. The muskets and pistols were all made in Dublin, during the reign of Queen Anne, and bear the initials of two manufacturers, C. O. and P. T. The names of individual militiamen, *e.g.*, W. JUGGINS, W. ROSE, I. VAUGHAN, and G. KEEN, are engraved upon some of the rifles.

On the east wall a fine suit of armour inlaid with gold is flanked by two sword trophies, each formed of 48 swords interlaced like lattice-work. Each blade is stamped with the figure of a fox running. Flanking the latticed swords, are trophies formed each of 32 muskets (16 horizontal and 16 vertical). Above the vertical muskets, on each side, are 36 pistols; around the helmet are other 20; and above all is a circle of 36 pistols surrounding the arms of Earl Stanhope. In the four angles of a parallelogram around that circle there are 36 sword-blades; nine in each angle. Upon many of the pistol-heads are brass plates engraved with the crest of a bull's head issuing from a ducal coronet, and surmounted by an earl's coronet.

Upstairs in the Hall, a glass-case contains: (i) A despatch-box of William Pitt, with the royal cipher of King George; (ii) An ivory medallion portrait of the first Earl Stanhope when thirty-five years old in 1708; (iii) His ivory snuff-box, used at Barcelona; (iv) A miniature of Napoleon I.; (v) Part of the oak under which Wellington stood at Waterloo; (vi) Telescope used by the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo; (vii) Gold powder-horn, once the property of Tippoo Sahib, presented to Mr. Pitt, and by him given to Lady Hester Stanhope; (viii) Necklace which belonged to Lady Hester Stanhope; (ix) Gold pen and pencil holder, given by Philip, second Earl Stanhope, to his wife Grisel on their wedding-day in 1745; (x) Snuff-box used by James, first Earl Stanhope, on his campaigns; (xi) Silver box containing Freedom of the City of Geneva, and presented to Philip, second Earl Stanhope, in 1776; (xii) Seven miniatures: (1) Hon. Alexander Stanhope; (2) Philip, second Earl Stan-

hope; (3) Philip, Lord Mahon, his son; (4) Grisel, second Countess Stanhope; (5) Lady Dalmeny; (6) Emily, Lady Mahon; (7) Hon. George Stanhope, died 1828.

On the eastern wall of the Hall (upstairs) are portraits of (1) Thomas Pitt (1653—1726), with the Pitt diamond—his daughter married the first Earl Stanhope; (2) King George I.; (3) James, first Earl Stanhope (1674—1721).

In the WEST VESTIBULE (upstairs) there is a remarkable portrait of the third Earl as Charles, Viscount Mahon, "*Commandeur de l'Exercice de l'Arc.*" It is an allegorical picture, with a white Cap of Liberty on a pole; an olive branch; the scales of Justice, and book of "*Les Loix*;" a bow and sheaf of arrows, and an armorial shield of Geneva, bearing half a black eagle, impaling *Gules*, a key. Philip, the second Earl, and his wife Grisel, Countess Stanhope, passed several years (*circa* 1763-76) at Geneva, for the education of their only surviving son Charles, Viscount Mahon.

In the SOUTH BEDROOM is an ancient Elizabethan bedstead, with tester and posts of carved oak. It came from Hever Castle, whence it was purchased in 1860 by the late Earl Stanhope.

THE BOUDOIR of Lady Stanhope is entirely hung with exquisite tapestry, presented in 1708 to General James Stanhope (1st Earl) by Frederick the First, King of Prussia. The King's monogram is wrought across the Prussian arms in the tapestry. On a pale brown ground are wrought various bright scenes. The very large panel covering the wall opposite the fireplace represents King Solomon receiving the Queen of Sheba. Over the mantelpiece is a portrait of the first Earl Stanhope by *Denner*.

The CHATHAM ROOM is a bedchamber on the eastern side of the house, with windows looking north. Portraits of Hester (*née* Grenville), Countess Chatham, 1750, by *Diepenbeck*, of W. Pitt, and others are here. A mirror bears the monogram of Thomas Pitt, father of the first Countess Stanhope.

PORTRAITS IN THE DRAWING-ROOMS.

WEST WALL.

.....The 1st Earl of Chatham in Peer's robes.
Sir Peter LelyAnne Hyde, Duchess of York.
Allan Ramsay.....Philip, 2nd Earl Stanhope, ob. 1786.
Allan Ramsay.....Mary Lepel, Lady Hervey.
Sir Peter LelyElizabeth, Countess of Chesterfield.

EAST WALL.

- Allan Ramsay*..... Anne, Countess Temple.
Gainsborough 4th Earl of Chesterfield (over fireplace).
 Richard, Earl Temple.
Schalcken, 1702 Mary (*née* Stanhope), Viscountess Fane.
Gainsborough William Pitt, the younger (over fireplace).
 Col. Edw. Stanhope (killed 1711 at Cardona).

WESTERN VESTIBULE OF DRAWING-ROOMS.

- Jackson* Duke of Wellington.
Sir Josh. Reynolds... Charles, Earl of Harrington.
 Lucy (*née* Pitt), 1st Countess Stanhope.
 George Keith (attainted 1715), Earl Marshal.
Dickenson Philip Henry, 5th Earl Stanhope (the Historian).

PORTRAITS IN THE DINING-ROOM.

WEST WALL.

- Gainsborough* Charles, 3rd Earl Stanhope, ob. 1816 (over fire-
 place).
Allan Ramsay..... Philip, 2nd Earl Stanhope, ob. 1786.
Allan Ramsay..... Grisel, 2nd Countess Stanhope, ob. 1811.

NORTH WALL.

- Mary, Countess Beauchamp (1876).
Buckner Hon. Ed. Stanhope.
Buckner Arthur Philip, 6th Earl Stanhope.
Buckner Evelyn, 6th Countess Stanhope (1871).

EAST WALL.

- Lucy (*née* Pitt), 1st Countess Stanhope.
 James, 1st Earl Stanhope.
 Mary, Lady Fane (sister of 1st Earl Stanhope).

SOUTH WALL.

- Allan Ramsay*..... Philip, Viscount Mahon, ob. 1763, }
Allan Ramsay..... Charles, 3rd Earl Stanhope, ob. 1816, } brothers.

PORTRAITS IN THE MORNING-ROOM.

WEST. James, 1st Earl Stanhope (over fireplace).

NORTH. Philip Henry, 4th Earl Stanhope (ob. 1855).

EAST. Sir Wm. Stanhope, brother of the 1st Earl of Chesterfield.
Sir Michael Stanhope, beheaded in 1551, with Protector Somerset.

SOUTH. Philip, Viscount Mahon (ob. 1763).

LORD CHATHAM'S RIDE.

During the summer and autumn of 1769, the great Earl of Chatham resided for some months in this house, which was lent to him by Lord Stanhope. While here he planned a new road towards Hayes, through the Park, which road Lord Stanhope afterwards made. It is still called Lord Chatham's Ride.

Some extracts from letters written during Lord Chatham's stay at Chevening, by Lord and Lady Chatham, and by Mr. J. Brampton (Lord Stanhope's steward), are interesting.

July 25th, 1769. Lord Chatham to Lord Stanhope.

"The place is in high beauty. . . . To retire from scenes without, to the noble feast of the mind within,—your Lordship's admirable library . . . [*my son Lord*] Pitt was struck with admiration and some fear at the sight of so much learning; but I have relieved his apprehensions by assuring him that he may be the most learned gentleman in England, except Lord Stanhope, if he will read and remember the tenth of the books he sees there. . . . He has aptness enough towards mathematics, and likes them well; the exercise of the body also (amongst which cricket is not forgot) he is not bad at."

September 25th, 1769. Lady Chatham to Lord Temple.

"Hayes calls my Lord frequently thither, and I, with the young folks, visit the different parts of this charming country, see some of our neighbours, and now and then look at a cricket match. Saturday my Lord-Chancellor [*Camden*] dined with us."

October 18th, 1769. Lord Chatham to Lady Stanhope.

"I carry my ambition to be remembered at Chevening so far, that I wish it may be said hereafter, if ever this plan for the road should go into execution, he, the overseer, who made this way, did not make the Peace of Paris."

July 23rd, 1769. J. Brampton to Lady Stanhope.

“Lord and Lady Chat^m (*sic*) and all their family are greatly delighted with the house, garden, and every thing here. . . . The stables are not big enough to contain all their horses; I have therefore, by the desire of Lady Chat^m, fitted them up one under the lodges in the cowyard, which serves well for the purpose. . . . it may be possible your Ladyship may like to have it continue as it is after Lord Chatham’s family leaves us, as it is very convenient.”

September 6th, 1769. J. Brampton to Lady Stanhope.

“Lord and Lady Chat^m lies in your room; Lord Pitt in the Brown Room; the two young Ladies in the Yellow Mohair Room; their two youngest sons, M^r Will^m and Mas^r James, lies in the Nursery; all the other Rooms are made use of by the upper servants; two beds likewise was Brought from Hayes and put up, one in the Music Room, and the other in the Room above it; one for M^r Wilson, Lord Chat^{ms} Chaplain, and the other for M. Jovancel, his late Secretary that was; the Yellow Satin Room bed is a spare one, I suppose, for company that come. Lady Lambard, Sir Jef. Amherst, and M^r and M^{rs} Herrings have been here on morning and afternoon visits. . . . M^r Colecroft (*Calcraft*) from Greenhive Dined here on Monday was sennight. . . . Lord Chat^m. . . . is out on horseback most days if the weather is fine; today he is gone to Hayes; he often goes there. Tomorrow the whole family, I imagine, will go to Mereworth. . . . where I believe they will stay the whole day and dine, as a cold loaf is preparing for them today.”

September 20th, 1769. J. Brampton to Lady Stanhope.

. . . . “It was doubted some few days ago that Lord Chat^m was going to have a fit of the gout, but it proved to be nothing but his overtiring himself with playing at Billiards with the young gentlemen and ladies, which occasioned a little pain in his ancle. He takes a deal of exercise when the weather is fine, is out most days and sometimes twice a day on horseback, is greatly delighted with the new rides that are made for him in Chevening Park.

“L^d Chat^m seems very anxious about M^r Winter’s Estate; if it should be again offered to sale, he would not advise my Lord to stick for a trifle of money in regard to the purchase.”