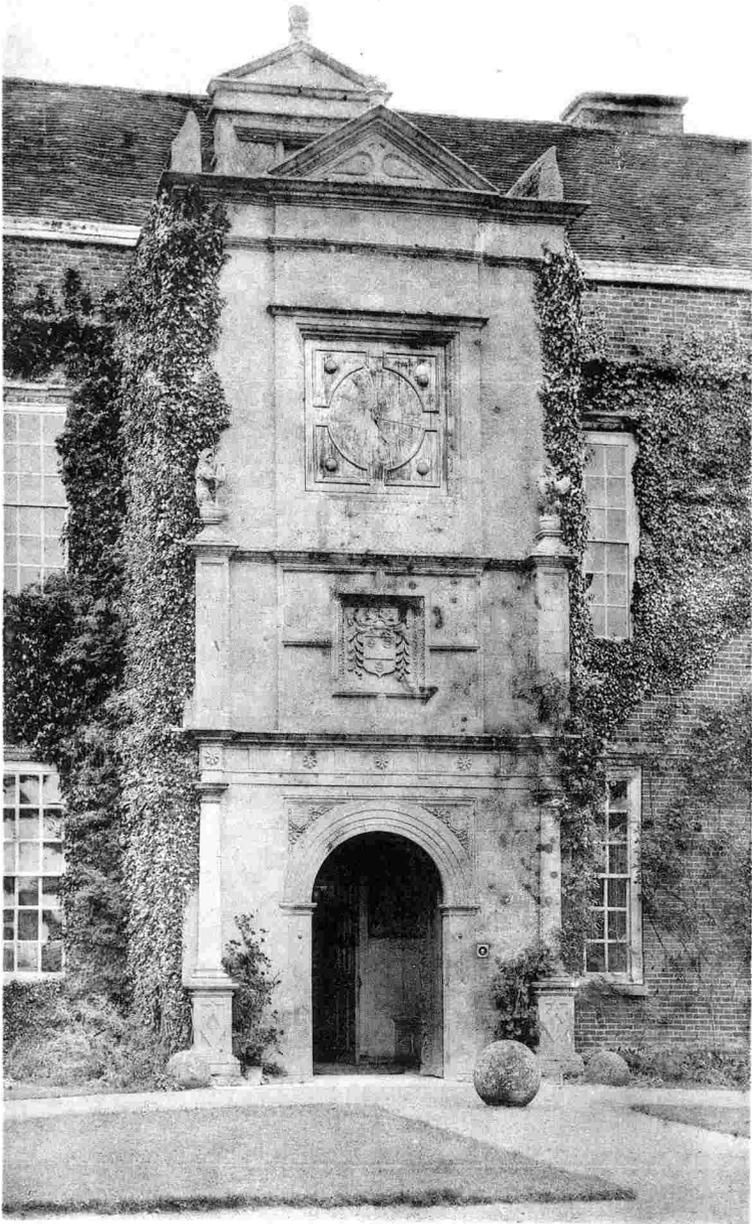




RUSHBROOKE HALL.



FRONT ENTRANCE, RUSHBROOKE HALL.

quitted the girdle, and given place to the Bible, which is suspended by a ribbon almost as low as the feet. The age of the monument is fixed by the epitaph on a brass plate—"The seventh of frosty Janyver, the yere of Christ, I fynd, a thousand fyve hundred fyfty seven, his vyttall thryd untwind." At the feet of the two ladies are figures of several children, 13 daughters and four sons, the latter have disappeared. The monument next in antiquity is a mural one, on the south side of the sacarium, in painted alabaster, of Mistress Elizabeth Drury, aged 15 years and 10 months, daughter of Sir Robert Drury. Opposite to this, on the north side of the sacarium, is a noble monument, consisting of a basement, on which is a sarcophagus of black marble, beneath a double arch, supported by Corinthian pillars. Over the arch, in an oval frame, is a spirited bust, in armour—life size—of Sir William Drury, who was killed in a duel in France, 1589, and is buried beneath in a leaden coffin. On the south side of the chancel is a large monument of painted plaster, ornamented with gilding and flowers, the work of an Italian, who has inscribed his name on the north pillar of the chancel arch. It was erected to the memory of the first Sir Thomas Cullum, who died 1664. In the churchyard, on the north side of the tower, stands the pedestal and shaft of an old cross. Its pedestal is charged with the Drury arms, and had originally the symbols of the Passion on two of its sides, but they were cut away when the base was severed in two, to serve as steps to the north door of the church.

After the church had been carefully examined the excursionists were driven to Rushbrooke Hall. In the absence of the Mr. R. Wyndham J. Rushbrooke, the visitors were met at the gate by the Rector, the Rev. Canon Turner. When all the party had assembled in the entrance hall the Rev. F. Haslewood, F.S.A., Honorary Secretary, read this paper:—

### RUSHBROOKE HALL,

spoken of as "fit for the palace of a prince," is a large mansion constructed of red brick, with a plain front to the north, on which side are the gardens and pleasure-grounds, and having two wings running at right-angles on the south side. The ground plan forms the letter E, the entrance being by the porch in the centre, which is faced with stone. Over the doorway is a large clock. The southern front is striking as seen from the approach to the mansion through the extensive park in which it is situate. Water flows in the moat on three sides, and a small wooden bridge connects the house with the stables, on the east side. Tradition says that a portion of the east wing was built in the reign of King John; there is, however, nothing remaining to justify any idea of such antiquity, the greater part of the mansion pointing to the Elizabethan period. Some of the apartments are of good proportions, notably the ball-room, in which are five large windows. The window-tax in olden times must have proved a serious burden; the more so if the general belief were true, namely, that there

were as many windows in the mansion as there are days in the year. The entrance-hall is well proportioned and arranged; the mantelpiece of carved marble is somewhat striking. Every room in the mansion, if it could only relate its own story, would have some remarkable tales to tell. Queen Elizabeth and others of royal blood have occupied the apartments. It lends an interest to our visit to-day to remember that it was in this very drawing-room that the great maiden queen held her court, and used the furniture that we this day behold; and in the apartment known as Queen Elizabeth's room is the four-post bedstead upon which her Majesty reposed. Time has somewhat faded the silk embroidery of the furniture, but the red velvet curtains and yellow silk coverlid have suffered but little, after upwards of three centuries. Adjoining this room is the state dressing-room, which is hung with ancient tapestry, representing the life and death of Samson. Upon the grand staircase will be observed some remarkably fine portraits by eminent masters. Among them will be recognized Queen Elizabeth, and the Prince of Orange when a youth. Sir Edmund Jermyn in cap with flowers; Sir Robert Jermyn in hat with staff, who entertained Queen Elizabeth in 1578. Thomas Jermyn in black, with white lace collar, Lady Mary Jermyn in blue, grand-daughter of Sir John Gage; Sir Henry Jermyn, created Lord Dover; Lady Barbara Hervey, Sir Jermyn Davers in red, died 1743; Sir Robert Davers, in brown, died 1723, Auditor of Excise, by Vanloo; Margaretta Jermyn, tulip in hand, daughter of Thomas Jermyn, wife of Henry, younger son of Sir John Gage, Bart., Sir Jermyn Davers, Naval Officer, in blue; Elizabeth Lady Bristol, mother of first Marquis, *née* Davers, and Lady Theodosia Louisa Hervey, her daughter afterwards Lady Liverpool. At the foot of the stairs is a mother-of-pearl chest, said to have belonged to Queen Elizabeth. What is now the billiard-room was anciently the old chapel. Here is a large oil-painting, the subject of which is Belshazzar's feast and the hand writing upon the wall. There is some good tapestry in the smoking-room, and the drawing-room contains two handsome silver-mounted cabinets which belonged to Queen Henrietta Maria. The history of an old mansion like this would not be complete without some gruesome story of a ghost. In this respect, therefore, we are able to satisfy this desire for something sensational, for in the west wing is found the chamber still known as the "ghost-room." In the nursery may be seen the portrait of the fair lady who, many years ago, came to an untimely end. It is said that in the haunted chamber blood-stains still mark the floor, which no scouring substances will remove. There, as tradition has it, the dark deed was done, and the mangled corpse of this beautiful lady was then hurried into an adjoining octagonal tower, thrust through the window, and precipitated headlong into the moat below. This mansion has been the home of many distinguished personages, and must have appeared especially brilliant in 1578, when the great maiden queen visited Sir Robert Jermyn with a large retinue. Queen Elizabeth was most loyally

received by her subjects in her progress through the eastern counties. Two hundred young gentlemen clad in white velvet, and 300 apparelled in black velvet coats and fair chains, were ready at one instant with 1500 serving men on horseback, all mounted in good order, ready to receive the Queen. Her Majesty was on her way from Cambridge. On August 5 she rode from Melford to Lawshall Hall, near Bury, the seat of Sir William Drury. Here the Queen dined, and in the evening proceeded to Hawstead, where a series of emblems had been prepared at Hardwick House. Thence the Queen came to Rushbrooke. On the 7th she was at Bury, but as the plague was then raging, she stayed there only a short time, and on the 10th the royal party arrived at Euston Hall, near Thetford, en route for Norwich. ("Queen Elizabeth's Progresses," by John Nichols, i. 108). The manor of Rushbrooke remained many years in the family of Jermyn, several of whom proved of service to their country, and became eminent. Sir Robert Jermyn, Knight, was high sheriff of the county, and proved a great benefactor to Emmanuel College. There is a letter from Sir Thos. Jermyn to Secretary Vane, dated Rushbrooke, 25 June, 1640, in reference to "sending back those disbanded soldiers who had forsaken their commanders, & without leave had straggled about the country." He, Jermyn spoke to them, "telling them there was no king that took more care for the good of his people in general, and particularly those employed in his wars (State Papers, Charles I., p. 346). Another letter, July 13, 1640, *Ibid.* p. 471, Sir Thos. Jermyn wrote from Rushbrooke to the Lords of the Council. He says, "at Bungay I asked the soldiers if they would chéerfully follow their commanders." "They answered no men were more willingly to serve their King, if provided with necessaries." Charles II., 1661—62, p. 82, a Petition of Henry son of Thos. Jermyn of Rushbrooke to the King, for confirmation of the patent granted to his late father by the late King, of the office of Receiver of Fines, on the grounds his father was a great sufferer. Sir Robert was father to Sir Thomas Jermyn, Privy Counsellor and Vice-Chamberlain to King Charles I., and his second son Henry was Master of the Horse, and Chamberlain to the Queen Dowager Henrietta Maria. He greatly exerted himself on behalf of King Charles I. during the civil war, and spared neither cash nor pains in obtaining arms and ammunition from foreign parts, for His Majesty's service. He, also attending upon the Queen in France, exposed himself to great danger to bring her to England, and landed her in Bridlington Bay, in Yorkshire. Mustering all the forces he could, he conducted her safe through the enemy's quarters at Oxford. In recognition of his brave and loyal conduct, he was rewarded with a peerage, being created by letters patent 1644, a Baron of this realm, by the title of Lord Jermyn, of S. Edmund's Bury. After the imprisonment of his royal master, which immediately followed the surrender of Oxford, he attended the Queen out of England, and took care of her family for sixteen years in the time of her exile. It is believed that this Henry Jermyn was privately married to Queen