



THURSTON HALL, HAWKEDON.

## THURSTON HALL.

BY REV. FRANCIS HASLEWOOD, F.S.A.

This was an ancient Manor, and is mentioned in Domesday, where it is called Thurstanestun. It is situate in the parish of Hawkedon.

Among the lords of this Manor have been Roger Pictaviensis, who according to Davy was owner in the reign of the Conqueror. It then passed into the hands of the Multons, and was afterwards vested in Sir Robert Harrington. In the time of Edward VI. it belonged to the family of Everard, and through them to Geoffry Maltward. Subsequently William Gilby was possessed of it. It then passed by sale to the Gotts, and is now the property of Mr. J. H. Porteus Oakes, of Nowton Court.

The present Hall is a large house built with stud-work filled up with brick nogging. Upon the porch, and over a chimney-piece in one of the rooms, is the date 1607, the period at which, in all probability, the present house was built. The gables are well proportioned, and the chimneys of graceful design. Some of the wood carving is worthy of careful examination. What remains of the building testifies to the skill of those who erected it, and it would serve as a good model for those who were about to rear, or re-construct a Manor House.

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After a brief survey of the various apartments, chimney pieces, and other features of interest, the wagonettes were once more filled, and the members continued their journey and very soon arrived at Swan Hall, another remarkable old Manor House, but only a portion of it remains. There is, however, sufficient left to indicate that it was once a very fine building.