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**Presidential Address**

by Earl Beauchamp  
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## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

BY THE RT. HON. EARL BEAUCHAMP, K.G.

THERE are few houses in this county which have so long a record as Madresfield. The earliest Deed in my possession shows that my ancestor William de Bracy was living here in 1260. From that time to the present there is a series of deeds showing how this house has descended from father to son with only two heiresses breaking the direct line, one at the beginning of the 15th century and the other at the beginning of the 18th. Here are, therefore, materials for a fairly complete family history of some interest. Elsewhere there are records of the Bracys at Madresfield to be found earlier than 1260. In the Red Book of the Exchequer 299, William Bracy in 1166 held half a knight's fee in Worcestershire. Before 1192 he was succeeded by Robert Bracy, against whom there was a claim by Walter de Baldenhall of half a knight's fee in Madresfield, as his share of the inheritance of three knights' fees which six sisters had divided between them. Robert is again mentioned in 1204 and 1205; and it was probably this man who died in 1220, a coroner of Worcestershire. He was succeeded by the William Bracy, whom I first mentioned. There is one earlier deed in my possession, which you will find on show in the library, of some considerable interest. It is a charter of Henry I., giving certain land to the Priory of Great Malvern, and it is printed in Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum*, vol. iii., pp. 447-448, of the edition of 1817-1821. Amongst the witnesses is Richard, Bishop of Hereford, which fixes its date as being between the years 1121 and 1127.

The name of Madresfield has undergone many changes. It has been both spelt and pronounced in many different ways. In the 17th century it was spoken and written of as Matchfield or even Maxfield, and many fanciful variations have been invented to explain its meaning. As a matter of fact, however, I believe that there is little doubt but that the name has its origin in that of the Saxon owner of the place whose "field" it was. This has the weighty authority of Mr. St. Clair Baddeley, who thinks the name was Maedhere.

To return, however, to the family records, William was succeeded by Sir Robert who married Maud de Warrenne. He was sheriff in the year 1298 and Knight of the Shire in the years 1300, 1301 and 1305. It is in connection with him that we find one possible exception to the completeness of my deeds. In 1316 it appears from the Feet of Fines that he settled the manors of Madresfield and Warndon (which is a small parish four miles the other side of Worcester) on himself for life with remainder to Robert, son of William Bracy and Joan, and the heirs of his body. Concerning this Sir Robert I have several deeds, but of William and Joan I can find no other trace. Robert was probably the infant grandson of the Sir Robert who married Maude de Warrenne. He became Knight of the Shire in 1361, and married a lady named Julianna. You will have heard from Mr. Rushforth—than whom no one knows more about it—that this Sir Robert and his wife were both commemorated in the Bracy window in Great Malvern Priory. He was succeeded by his son William who married Joan, and a grandson of the same name who married an Isabella. I cannot trace the William and Agnes whose names are in the window. The only child of William and Isabella was the heiress Joan who married before the year 1423 Thomas Lygon. There is very little mention of the Lygons to be found before that date. The visitation

of 1659 gives us William Lygon who in 1340 was married to a lady called Margaret. He had a father whose name was George and a son called Richard, whom I find mentioned in one of my deeds dated 1400, and who was the father of the Thomas who married Joan Bracy. Nash is wrong in calling the bridegroom Richard. They had two sons, the elder of whom, William, married Elizabeth, daughter of Rainford Arundel, but died without issue. Her effigy can still be seen on the Nanfan monument in the church of Birtsmorton. There is a copy of the proceedings at the Worcestershire Quarter Sessions in 1477, at which this William sat as a magistrate. Such documents are of great rarity. His brother Thomas, who married Anne Giffard, was the father of Richard Lygon, who married Anne, one of the co-heiresses, daughters of Richard Beauchamp, second Lord Beauchamp of Powyke.

Let us now go back to consider the ancestors of Anne in the light of the deeds which I possess. There is much that is common knowledge about the history of the Beauchamp family which may be found printed in various works of reference. Amongst the deeds here, however, is one of about the year 1260, with the seal in perfect condition, of William de Beauchamp, ninth Earl of Warwick. It is interesting because it shows the fess which is common to all the Beauchamps, but without the cross Crosslets which subsequently distinguished the Beauchamps of Warwick. His brothers, John Beauchamp, of Holt, and Walter Beauchamp, of Alcester and Powyke, both occur in deeds of about some ten years later. Walter married Alice, who, according to Dugdale, was one of the Tonies, and was the father of Walter, Lord of Alcester, and of Giles, who married Katharine. Giles was father of John Beauchamp of Powyke, and of Roger Beauchamp, Lord Beauchamp of Bletsoe. This John, by Elizabeth Patshull, had a son, William, who married Katharine, daughter and co-heiress to Sir Gerard de Ufflete, and was

the father of Sir John, first Lord Beauchamp of Powyke and a Knight of the Garter. He succeeded his father before 1438, in which year he was guardian of the extensive lands of his cousin Henry, Earl of Warwick. He was Lord Treasurer from 1450 to 1452. His wife, who survived him twelve years, was one of those ladies for whom, in the year 1448, robes of the Order of the Garter were provided. His plate is to be seen in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, bearing quarterly the arms of Beauchamp of Powyke and Ufflete. He married Mary, sister of Richard Ferrars, and died in 1475, being buried in the church of the Blackfriars at Worcester, leaving Richard, his son and heir. This Richard, second Lord Beauchamp of Powyke, married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Humphrey Stafford, and died without male issue in the year 1496. In 1479 he seems to have had some disputes with his brother Thomas, about which some interesting records remain, including the petitions to the king and the answer. His three daughters married respectively Richard, son of Lord Broke, the ancestor of the present Lord Willoughby de Broke; Margaret, who married William Rede; and Anne who, as I have already said, married Richard Lygon, who, through his grandmother, Joan, was the heir of the Bracys.

Here, then, we reach a stage at the end of the 15th century with one Richard Lygon, their son, representing in his person the three families Lygon, Bracy and Beauchamp of Powyke. You will find the coats-of-arms of these families, with the addition of that of the Pyndars, about whom I shall have something to say later on, represented in several places throughout the house. Lygon bears argent, two lions passant gules; | Bracy has a coat gules, a fess or, in chief two mullets argent of the same; Beauchamp of Powyke, gules, a fess or between six martlets of the same. It is with the second Richard that the connection with Gloucestershire becomes intimate, for a

daughter and co-heiress of Sir William Grevill, of Arle, married the son of Richard and Anne. There is a brass, a good deal damaged, to the memory of Sir William Grevill, one of the King's Judges, in the parish church of Cheltenham. But of all this, it is not necessary for me to remind you, for, in the year 1913, you had printed amongst your *Transactions* an interesting article on "Old Arle Court," by Mrs. Welch. It is full of information, to which I can add very little, except perhaps a hint as to the maiden name of Sir William Grevill's wife. Deed 395, in my possession, has an indenture of Robert Hykkys of Croome Hall, in the county of Gloucester, in which he speaks of Margery Grevill, widow; Margaret, her daughter; Richard Lygon, esquire, husband of Margaret; and of John Vampage, son of Eleanor, late wife of Robert Vampage, esquire, another daughter of Margery. Lastly he speaks of Thomas Bowton, cousin of the said Margery. It is indeed uncertain that Bowton is the name, but I have put out this deed for the Society to see, thinking that this name possibly represents, whatever it may be, the maiden name of Lady Grevill. In any case, Richard II. who was knighted at the coronation of Anne Boleyn, lived a good deal at Arle. He was sheriff in the year 1547, and died in the year 1557. He was one of a very large family, of whom we hear something from the visitation of 1623, and from various other sources, as well as from my deeds. There were seven brothers of Sir Richard, but there are only two of these who interest us particularly. One of them was Roger, who married Katharine Dennis, the widow of Sir Edmund Thame, and of Sir Walter Buckle, a private secretary to Queen Elizabeth. It is in remembrance of Roger Lygon and Katharine, his wife, who were buried together in the church at Fairford, that I have restored the chapel where they lie. His brother Michael married Ursula Hornyold, and had in his turn a family of six sons and one daughter.

George, his son, who is described as being of Fairford, died in 1592, without any children. Anne Beauchamp seems to have left her manor of Beauchamp Court, Powyke, to her son Michael. It is in this generation that we first find the family able to write. Anne, indeed, signed one deed in the year 1532, in a round childish hand. Her sons, however, seem mostly to have been taught to write, for I possess the autographs of several. Meanwhile, the eldest son of Sir Richard and Margaret Grevill married in 1529, Eleanor, a daughter of Sir William Dennis, who lived at Dyrham, in the county of Gloucester. Their marriage settlements are an amusing picture of contemporary manners. (Deed 405). The bridegroom seems to have gone to live at Arle in 1531, and to have remained there until his father died, for he is described as being at Madresfield in the year 1558. William was possessed of the stewardship of the lordship, manor, hundred, and liberty of Cheltenham for the term of his life by Letters Patent of King Edward VI., which he assigned to his son Richard. (483) His brother Henry married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Berkeley, and was the father of Sir Arnold Lygon, lord of the manor of Kemerton in Gloucestershire. Indeed, we find many connections with Gloucestershire all through these generations. For instance, in Deed 569 Thomas Hicks, of Cheltenham, appears in a deed relating to Cheltenham, together with Richard Lygon, Roger Lygon and Lady Katharine Buckler, his wife. Many manors were held by one or another member of the family, and many were the marriages with the country gentlemen in the county. Richard Lygon, son and heir to William Lygon and Eleanor Dennis, married Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Russell, of Strensham, and a memorial of this wedding is to be found in the windows of the library here, where you will see the arms of Lygon impaling those of Russell in glass of a contemporary date. It is worthy of note

that the arms of Lygon in this window and in the accompanying achievement which represent the marriage in the next generation of Lygon and Harewell are exactly those upon the monument of Lady Dormer in Cheltenham Parish Church. She was the daughter and heiress of John Lygon, of Arle Court, and married Sir Fleetwood Dormer. It will be convenient here to trace the connection between this lady and the Richard Lygon of my window. I regret that I am not wholly able from the papers in my possession to endorse Mrs. Welch's conjectures in her article on Arle Court, in vol. xxxvi. of your *Transactions*. John Lygon married his relation Elizabeth, daughter to Sir Arnold Lygon. He had two sons, Arnold and William, and three daughters, Katharine, his eldest daughter and heiress, Elizabeth and Diana. Katharine married Sir Fleetwood Dormer. After the death of his first wife John Lygon married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Talbot, of Salwarpe, and she in turn married again, as you will hear directly. Of Sir Arnold Lygon there is little to say. He is described as being of Beauchamp Court, Powyke, but also he was lord of the manor of Kemerton, and was twice married—firstly to Joan, widow of John Baker, and secondly to Margaret Talbot, widow of his cousin, Richard Lygon. The only child I have discovered was Elizabeth, who married, as you know, John Lygon of Arle. Of the brothers and sisters to Richard and Mary there is only one of interest to you, viz., Francis, who is described as being of Arle. He married a lady called variously Grace Bubb or Babb, of Bentham, and was the father of William Lygon, of Great Witcombe, Glos. Thanks to some information given me by Mrs. Hicks Beach, it appears that he lived 85 years, and was buried there in 1683. His wife Katharine pre-deceased him by four years. He had a sister Joan, and two brothers, Hugh and John. This John was baptized in 1599, and had a son, also called

John, baptized in 1632. Here let me refer to an inventory taken at Madresfield on 8th October, 1584, possibly on the death of Richard Lygon, the husband of Mary Russell. It is an interesting and complete document, first giving the livestock and the ricks, and then the contents of the house, room by room. Some of these rooms still remain, though I fear that their contents are very different to-day. There was a lot of armour in the gallery, and there was a great chamber and a little room within it, as well as a parlour to sit in. Most of the other rooms were used as bedrooms, and there were great stores of linen and pewter, some of which, I think, may still be here.

Before turning to the next generation, there is an interesting deed of the date 1595, in which John Whitgift, Archbishop of Canterbury, consents to the amalgamation of the rectories of Clevelode and Madresfield. It seems that distances have increased since those days, as the two churches are described as being not above one mile apart. It is difficult to think it was less than two according to modern measurements (679).

William, the eldest son of the next generation, married Elizabeth Harewell, of Besford, in this county, and was Knight of the Shire in 1589. Of his brothers and sisters there are only two sisters whom I shall mention to you: Elizabeth, who married, firstly, Maurice Gilbert, of Witcombe, and, secondly, Myles Smithe, Bishop of Gloucester; and Eleanor who married John Washbourne. She thereby became the mother of one of your Gloucestershire poets. Thomas Washbourne, their son, was rector of Dumbleton in 1640, and shortly afterwards was promoted to be a prebendary of your cathedral. Let me quote one of his "Divine Poems," published 1654, p. 170:—

#### UPON A PASSING BELL.

Hark, how the Passing Bell  
Rings out thy neighbour's knell:

And thou, for want of wit  
 Or grace, ne'er think'st on it  
 Because thou yet art well.  
 Fool! In two days or three  
 The same may ring for thee!  
 For Death's impartial dart  
 Will surely hit thy heart!  
 He will not take a fee.  
 Since, then, he will not spare,  
 See thou thyself prepare  
 Against that dreadful day  
 When thou shalt turn to clay!  
 This Bell bids thee, Beware!

The next generation of Lygons was, I fear, of a very different character. One of them committed murder, and another seems to have spent a long time in the Upper Bench Prison. Let me take the more innocent members first. Edmund lived at Blacknaunton, and William, the eldest son, who paid a visit to Venice in 1597, married Elizabeth, daughter of Katharine Pleydall. On the death of her husband she married Sam Knightley. This is another of the points on which Nash errs. This same Sir William is accused in Collin's *Peerage*, 1812, that "by his prodigality and extravagant mode of life he very considerably impaired the estates which had devolved to him, and that he sold many manors which he inherited from a long line of ancestors." At any rate he kept outside the meshes of the law—more fortunate in this than his brother Henry, to whom, in 1620, James I. issued a pardon for the murder of Henry Hildiard, late of the Inner Temple, seven years earlier. Although there is nothing said about it we must hope that it was the result of a duel. In 1653 Richard Lygon, writing from the Upper Bench Prison, dedicates to Bishop Brian Duppa, of Salisbury, his true and exact History of the Island of Barbados. This book seems to have passed through several editions. I have copies dated 1657 and

1673. What was the offence for which Richard Lygon was put in prison I do not know, nor do the eulogies or prefatory letters give any explanation. But the book is even now curious to read, and it is interesting to me to know that his name is still known and honoured in the Barbados.<sup>1</sup> I have the will made by the head of the family in 1619, with many references to its members then alive, and with many bequests. He was succeeded by a man who was of some importance in his day, and was known as Colonel William Lygon. During the Parliamentary Wars he sided with the Roundheads, and his name is constantly to be found in the commissions and committees of that date. He was appointed by them as sheriff in 1647. Three times in the history of England has the Crown been lost or won within sixteen miles of this house — at Tewkesbury, at Evesham, and at Worcester. In the last civil war Madresfield had its share. While the Faithful City was held for the king, this house was held as an outpost. Nor need we imagine that the troops in possession thought it necessary to take great care of the property which belonged to an enemy. The Governor, Captain Ashton, declared at a Council of War that he could defend the house for three months against any forces which the enemy might bring. It must, therefore, have had a considerable garrison. When the critical moment came, however, they were quite without influence upon the operations which delivered Worcester over to Oliver Cromwell, although his troops must have passed but a short distance from the house on their way from Upton.

One interesting relic of these times remained here until lately. Dilapidated trees in a dilapidated avenue past the stables became dangerous in 1916, and I found it necessary to cut down what remained. Upon examination the trees appeared to be of such an age that they

<sup>1</sup>There is a reference to the book in Evelyn's Diary for August 16, 1668.

must have been planted directly Colonel Lygon got back again into his own house and was able to repair the ravages of war. Colonel Lygon died in 1680, having married Mary Eggiocke, co-heiress of her brother whose mother was Eleanor Dinely, of Charlton. It was about this time that Hallow Park came into the family, after the unfruitful marriage of Anne, daughter of Colonel Lygon, to Edward Bull. The Colonel's son Richard married twice, but left no children. His second wife married Sir John Guise, of Elmore, another link between this house and Gloucestershire. It was Richard's brother William who carried on the succession, and he made an important marriage. His wife was Margaret Corbyn, of Hall End, the heiress of an old Warwickshire family. With the details of this Warwickshire alliance I will not trouble a Gloucestershire assembly, but I may say that the Corbyn Deeds are important and interesting. They are a complete history of that family from the year 1358. In the middle of the 17th century some of the junior members went to Virginia, and it is particularly pleasant to know that a descendant of that branch of the family resumed his British nationality during the War and is serving abroad at the present moment in the British army. It is tempting to linger among the American letters, but I must hurry on to the still more important marriage in the next generation when Gloucestershire finally absorbed the Worcestershire family which represented the Lygons, the Corbyns, the Bracys, the Grevills of Arle, and the Beauchamps of Powyke.

Corbyn, who married Jane Tulley, was the only son of William Lygon and Mary Corbyn to have any children. Their three daughters never married, and their only son died at the age of ten. Accordingly their whole property came to the boy's aunt Margaret, who married Reginald Pyndar, of Kempley, in the county of Gloucestershire. The Pyndar family had its origin in Yorkshire. Its most

distinguished member was Sir Paul Pyndar, who was ambassador to Constantinople in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and the front of whose London house may be seen to-day in the Victoria and Albert Museum. A memorandum from the records of Kempley tells us that Reginald Pyndar and Penelope, his wife, brought with them out of the county of Derby six children—Thomas, Penelope, Grace, Pyeria, Rebecca, and Cassandra. "God bless them with long life, grace, and all other benefits whatsoever is the hearty prayer of John Lewis" (for many years vicar of Kempley). Penelope, their mother, was the daughter of Gervas Lee, of Norwell, Nottinghamshire, and her children were born at successive dates between 1662 and 1675. Their arms are gules a fess argent between three lions' heads of the same ducally crowned or. I confess at once that I have not had time to search my deeds completely for a full history of the Pyndars. At a later date, if it is sufficiently interesting, perhaps you will allow me to contribute a note upon this family to your *Transactions*. But it is appropriate that you should pay a visit to Kempley to-morrow, though the Pyndars were but transient phantoms in the long history of that parish. If you have time there is a plaster ceiling within the unpromising exterior of the Stone House, of an earlier date, which is worth seeing. With the Pyndar deeds are naturally some connected with the land which came through the Howes, from whom Mr. Pyndar bought the property.

Let me return to Reginald Pyndar, who married Margaret Lygon. She succeeded, as I have already told you, her nephew, and married one of the Biddulphs, of Ledbury, after the death of her first husband. She took with her on that occasion some of the Lygon portraits, two of which have lately returned to their old home. She was succeeded by her son, Reginald, who took by Act of Parliament in 1735 the name and arms of Lygon,

which have ever since been borne by the owner of Madresfield, except during the possession of John, third Earl Beauchamp. This Reginald made an interesting marriage. His wife was Susanna Hanmer, a descendant of the Jennens family, with which Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, was connected. William Jennens, the miser, born in 1700 and dying intestate in 1789, provided the legal profession for many years with a large income. The litigation which ensued upon his death was the origin of the proceedings which Dickens satirised as the Jarndyce case in "Bleak House." I am fortunate in possessing two portraits of him. In the Saloon, painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller, he stands at full length, drawing a sword upon which is written "the Duchess of Marlborough's gift." Over the mantelpiece in the Dining Hall is a portrait by the same artist, which shows him with his mother. He was a great character, of whom the story is told that when a friend came to see him one evening he was reading by the light of a single candle. On hearing that his visitor wished to talk to him he remarked that they could talk just as well in the dark, and proceeded to blow out the candle.

It is sufficient to say that I have a good deal of Jennens plate, including a silver warming-pan and a cup by Paul Lamerie, which you will see in the Dining Hall, as well as a number of letters written by Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, to her relative, Mr. Jennens. There are also some embroideries, now used as curtains, quilts, or screens, which family tradition asserts to have been the work of Queen Anne and the Duchess of Marlborough. The son of Richard and Susanna married a beautiful girl, Katharine Denne by name, whose paternal ancestors puzzle me a great deal. But she was a lady of great character and personality. Meanwhile the excesses of the French Revolution had driven the Whig family of Lygon into the Tory camp, and in 1806 her husband,

William Lygon, who had been a member of Parliament for 30 years, was made a baron. In 1815, a year before his death, he was further advanced in the peerage, being made Earl Beauchamp, Viscount Elmley, and Baron Beauchamp of Powyke. You will find several portraits and miniatures of this first countess in the house. They differ in many particulars, but they all agree in representing her as a lady of great beauty and attraction. The first earl was succeeded by three of his sons in turn, of whom the first two had no children. General Harry, the fourth earl, married Lady Susan Elliot, daughter of Earl St. Germans, and was succeeded by two sons—Henry, who died unmarried in 1866, and my father, Frederick, who married, in 1863, Mary, only daughter of the fifth Earl Stanhope. Through her connection with the family of the first Lord Chatham, the present Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports finds himself connected with Mr. Pitt, one of the greatest of his predecessors in that office.

Indeed, it is interesting to me, as I delight in the shelter of the trees which were planted at Walmer Castle by my connection, Lady Hester Stanhope, to remember that it was from that house that my great-grandfather went to his wedding at Deal Castle. At that time he was living with his uncle, Mr. Pitt, at Walmer, and they went over together on November 19th, 1803, for his marriage to the daughter of Lord Carrington, who was then Captain of Deal. Their son, distinguished amongst historians as Lord Mahon, was in later life the intimate friend of his great relative's great successor, the Duke of Wellington, and he has embodied, in some notes of his conversations with the duke, much of great interest. Amongst the many things about the Cinque Ports which I am tempted to relate, I will content myself with one—that the offices of Lord Warden and Admiral of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle are once more—

after 560 years—held by a Beauchamp who is also a Knight of the most noble Order of the Garter.

But at last I have done with people, and I turn to say a few words about this house which will serve, I hope, as a guide to help you to find something of interest this afternoon.

Many people are misled by the coat-of-arms over the front door, which bears the initials and arms of Sir William Lygon and Elizabeth Harewell, his wife, together with the date 1593. This stone is not in its original position. I found it, unfortunately, much defaced at the back-door, embedded in some very modern brickwork, and removed it to its present position. Though it may mark important alterations or additions to the house, it certainly does not commemorate its foundation. Originally this house, no doubt, followed the usual construction of a manor-house. There was a great hall in the middle of the space enclosed by the moat, with a gate-house to guard the bridge. The foundation of the wall inside the moat and much of the brickwork is evidently of a very much older date than 1593. The kitchen and offices connected the hall and gate-house on the north side, while the living rooms connected them on the east and south-east. Probably this stone commemorated a good deal of reconstruction and decoration within the gate-house, of which two or three rooms have been very little altered from that date to this. You will be interested in seeing the panelling and plaster ceilings in those rooms. The long gallery on the first floor has been altered, and the oak panelling has been re-arranged. The chimney-piece comes from Kempley, and bears the initials of the Finches, who were amongst the predecessors of the Pyndars. This room, however, no doubt, is of much the same shape, except for its bow windows, as it was in Elizabethan days. At that time the house must have been a picturesque building, with crow-

stepped gables, the south front being much as it is now, although another storey has been added over the gate-house, and stone mullions have been inserted in the windows. The entrance doors, with the hinged key to the outer pair, are worth notice. In the middle of the last century a good deal of re-construction and repairing was found necessary. This was carried out by the fifth Earl Beauchamp, on the advice of Philip Hardwick. With the succession of the sixth earl began a larger alteration. The drawing-rooms were pulled down and the whole of that block in which we are now, consisting of the saloon, the drawing-room, this hall, and certain bedrooms, was erected. At the same time the chapel was built, taking the place of an old library on the ground floor, with a bedroom above it, which was named after Charles II. There is, however, no proof that he ever slept in it. The chapel was decorated from 1902 onwards as a wedding gift from Lady Beauchamp to me. The work is generally due to Mr. Payne, who is now resident in the Cotswolds. You will find special guides on the seats in the chapel. About 1872 the bell-turret was added and a number of offices erected on the further side of the moat. It was also found necessary to face the outside of the gallery with modern brick, with the result of making one of the older parts of the house look modern. The whole effect is to make the house appear more Victorian than it really is; for you will find much of the original portions of the house indistinguishably blended with the new. The room, which must have been used as a guard-chamber during the occupation of the Royalists in the time of the Parliamentary War is on the ground-floor to the left as you enter. It is used now as a bedroom, and deserves a visit. The library, which lies on the ground floor to the right of the entrance, has been arranged for your visit this afternoon by placing a number of deeds, early printed books, manuscripts, and bindings, on tables for your inspection. The saloon and

drawing-room contain many pieces of Boulle furniture, which was bought by Katharine, Countess Beauchamp, who paid a visit to Paris in the year 1815, when three of her sons were in the army of occupation. In the saloon you will find some treasures, including the Limoges enamel, which is set out in a cabinet which comes from the *Œil de Bœuf* at Versailles. In the drawing-room are more Boulle cabinets, containing Sevres china, crystals and snuff boxes. In the show-tables are the smaller objets d'art. The portraits in that room are all English, and here and elsewhere are labelled with the name of the subject and the painter. In the smaller room, off the drawing-room, you will find the enamel miniatures on the walls. It will not be worth your while to waste your time over the Bones and the Bates, but you will find a good deal of interest in the other cases, especially that which contains the enamels by Petitot. The rest of the miniatures are displayed in drawers along the table in this hall. Here I must call your attention to the French portraits round the wall below. Amongst these are a number of interesting persons, mostly painted by Mignard, though Madame de Pompadour is by Boucher.

Up this staircase and through the curtains you will find a narrow passage hung with the earlier and smaller portraits, leading to the long gallery which contains more cabinets, holding ivories, agates, china, etc. From the eastern windows of the room you get a great view across the Severn Valley, with a glimpse of the Cotswolds, beyond Bredon. In the foreground beyond the gardens, runs the new avenue which, from its constant use as I go to your county, is called the Gloucester Avenue. From the bow window at the end of the room you will see the Malvern Hills.

Nothing remains to be added, except to say that the dining-room, which follows the lines of the mediaeval hall, will be open for refreshments, to which I bid you welcome, at 4 o'clock.