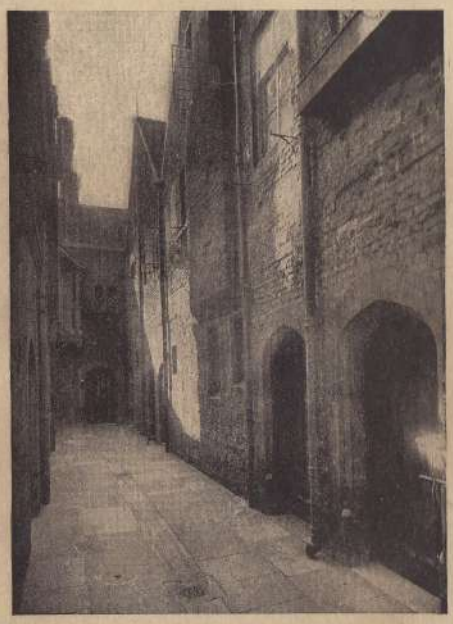


THE FISH OR "FYSSHE KECHYN" COURT.

KING HENRY VIII's GREAT KITCHEN

AT

HAMPTON COURT

BY

ERNEST LAW.

Price 1/-

KING HENRY VIII's GREAT KITCHEN
AT
HAMPTON COURT

THE OLD STAIRS TO THE CLOISTERS, "DRYNKYNGE HOWSE," "KING'S WYNE CELLAR" AND "SERVYNGE PLACE"

HISTORICALLY DESCRIBED
BY
ERNEST LAW, C.B.

LONDON:
HUGH REES LTD., 5, REGENT STREET,
1925

NOTICE TO VISITORS

Visitors wishing to see Henry VIII's Great Kitchen will be provided with tickets, at a charge of 3d. each, at the foot of the King's Great Staircase. Here they will be shown the way to the Haunted Gallery, where they should join a party to be conducted by a warder on the circuit or walk-round described in the " Survey " on a later page.

Permission to reproduce illustrations in this booklet will be given, without fee, to anyone wanting them for educational purposes, or for use in historical and scholarly works, on application to the author.

Visitors are requested to communicate with the author (The Pavilion, Hampton Court Palace) if they have any comments or suggestions or corrections to make in this booklet.

The State Apartments are open to the Public every day in the week, *except Fridays*, throughout the year, from 10.0 a.m. to 5.0 p.m. in March and April ; from 10.0 a.m. to 6.0 p.m. in May, June, July, August and September ; from 10.0 a.m. to 5.0 p.m. in October, and 10.0 a.m. to 4.0 p.m. in the winter months. They are closed on Christmas Day.

They are open on *Sundays*, but not until 2 o'clock.

On Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays a fee of 6d. is charged, and on Tuesdays of 1s. for each person ; on Sundays they are open without fee.

KING HENRY VIII's GREAT KITCHEN AND OFFICES.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

IN pursuance of the policy followed, with the cordial approval of the King, by the Lord Chamberlain's Department and H.M. Office of Works—namely, of preserving and making as accessible as can be to the public all the historic parts of Hampton Court—Henry VIII's Great Kitchen, with some old nooks and corners in its neighbourhood, will be open on and after Monday next, the 17th August, to all such visitors as may specially desire to view it.

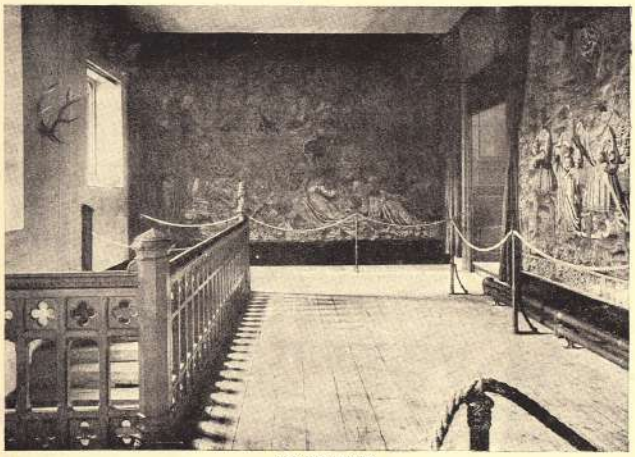
How greatly such privileges are appreciated by the public can be estimated from the fact that upwards of a quarter of a million persons have visited Cardinal Wolsey's Private Rooms since they were opened two years ago ; and about a million the Haunted Gallery, since it was opened in 1918.

It would not have been practicable to give admission, without restriction, to the thousands of visitors who daily pass through the State Rooms. It has, therefore, been decided that a charge of 3d. each shall be made for this special facility. This will, incidentally, yield more than sufficient to meet the cost to the Treasury of this valuable addition to the historic interests of Hampton Court.

Parties of limited numbers will be assembled in the Great Watching Chambers, or in the Haunted Gallery, and will be conducted by a warder down the stairs, along the cloister, through the Serving Place and so into King Henry's Kitchen.

The Old Kitchen, however, is by no means the only interesting place which will be traversed in this walk-round. As will appear from the descriptions that follow, and the accompanying illustrations, some of the most picturesque portions of the old Tudor palace are to be found in this corner of the great building. Whole groups of old offices are to be traced out as built for Henry VIII, enclosing curious little court-yards, which fortunately have to a large extent escaped the devastating hand, equally of the "classicist" of the 18th century, as that of the "Gothic restorer" of the 19th century. They afford, indeed, an example of the domestic arrangement of a great mediæval palace unparalleled in England, and scarcely rivalled anywhere in Europe.

From this point of view it will be appreciated that the making visible of this old kitchen is only a beginning. For it is no secret that early next year King Henry's wonderful "Newe Wyne Cellar" underneath his Great Watching Chamber, in length 60 ft. and in width 30 ft., with its narrow squint-like windows, and its fine, groined, vaulted roof of brickwork, springing from stone corbels on the walls and supported in the middle by stone pillars or piers, will be cleared of its modern dividing walls, which at present chop it up into small cellars, and be opened to public inspection, and included, with the "Horn-Room" stairs and part of the "Old Drinking House"—the Palace bar or canteen in Tudor and Stuart times—in the special itinerary. In another two years or so the whole under-space or vaults beneath the floor of the Great Hall, about 110 ft. in length by 40 ft. in width, comprising yet more of Henry VIII's cellarage, and his great "boterie" or buttery, will be also included in the itinerary of these remarkable Tudor domestic offices. This, however, cannot take place until this under-space, at present chockful of timbering and props to support the roof of the Hall now under repair, is cleared.



THE HORN ROOM

In the meanwhile, we will describe on a later page such parts of the walk-round as are to be made immediately available.

Before doing this, however, let us try to conjure up in our mind's eye, by the aid of such records of the past as remain to us, a few pictures of what these ancient purlieus witnessed in the olden time.

The Little House betwixt the Chimneys.

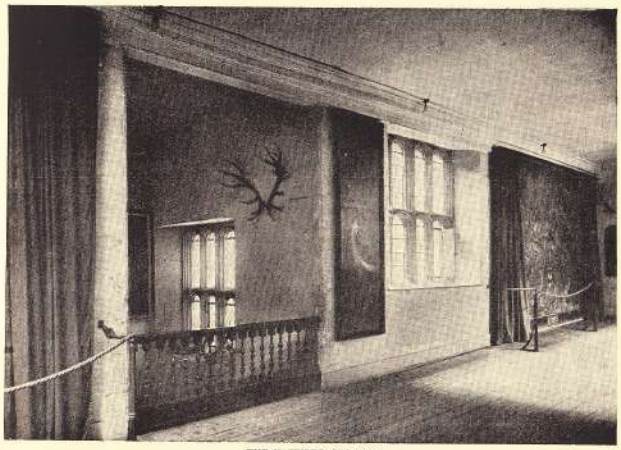
Already in the time of the Cardinal, the profuse hospitality of whom required extensive offices and elaborate preparations, there were two main kitchens, one being his privy kitchen for his own table. Here reigned his master-cook, a functionary attired in velvet and satin, and wearing a gold chain round his neck. It may be that the small room between the two sections of the Great Kitchen is a survival of Wolsey's occupancy, and that his master-cook overlooked the operations of his subordinates from this coign of vantage. It is more probable, however, that it dates from the time of Henry VIII, for in that King's accounts for the extensions and improvements he was carrying out in the palace in the very year of his great minister's death, there is a charge for the roofing of the "lyttyll house betwixte too chymneys of the greate Kechyn,"—evidently the little recessed chamber still existing there.

The servitors in Wolsey's kitchens and offices were upwards of eighty in number, and consisted of twelve assistant cooks, yeomen, grooms, etc. Besides these there were two clerks of the Kitchen, a clerk comptroller, a surveyor of the dresser, a clerk of the spicery, and labourers, and even children of the Kitchen.

All these were needed to furnish forth the great banquets the Cardinal was accustomed to give, and none more than the most famous of all, the one with which he entertained the French Embassy and its suite of 500 persons at Hampton Court in October, 1527, when "the purveyors"—as Cavendish his Gentleman-Usher, who was in the midst of it all, relates—"brought and sent in such costly provisions, as ye would wonder at the same. The cooks wrought both night and day in divers subtleties and many crafty devices." When the night of the grand banquet arrived "my Lord's officers went right discreetly in due order and conducted these noble personages from their chambers into the Chamber of Presence where they should sup. And they, being there, caused them to sit down; their service was brought up in such order and abundance, both costly and full of subtleties, with such a pleasant sound of divers instruments of music, that the Frenchmen, as it seemed, were rapt into a heavenly paradise."

The "subtleties" were dishes of food counterfeiting "beasts, birds, fowls, of divers kinds and personages most lively made, some fighting, as it were with swords, some with guns and crossbows, some vaulting and leaping, some dancing with ladies, some in complete harness, jousting with spears."

These vast kitchens and cellars, with their various appurtenant offices, were built by King Henry, mainly in 1531 and 1532, not only for the essential needs of the royal households, but especially with a view of keeping up the good old English custom of the whole of the inhabitants in a great establishment, and of all who, whatever their business might chance to be, were staying in a great house, dining together in hall. Any departure from this custom was regarded with the greatest disfavour by bluff old King Hal. In "The Ordinances of Eltham," drawn up by Wolsey with elaborate precision for the regulation of the King's household, we find, among many other analogous rules, a very stringent



THE HAUNTED GALLERY

one enacting that there should always be in the Palace a public table, to which those at Court should without fail repair. This rule was especially aimed at " sundry noblemen, gentlemen and others, who do much delight and use to dyne in corners and secret places . . . not repairing to the King's chamber nor hall, by reason whereof the good of the King's household and chamber is greatly impaired, and the said officers oftentimes destitute of company at their boards."

By the same " Ordinances of Eltham," the diet allowances or " Bouche of Court," as it was termed, to which any person resident in the palace was entitled, was accurately fixed according to his rank or position. Thus a duke or duchess was allowed in the morning one chett loaf, one manchet, and one gallon of ale ; in the afternoon, one manchet and one gallon of ale ; and for after supper one chet loaf, one manchet, one gallon of ale, and a pitcher of wine, besides torches, faggots, and other necessaries. But a countess was allowed nothing at all after supper, and a gentleman usher had no allowance for the morning or afternoon. As, however, " Bouche of Court " was in addition to the excellent meals provided for everyone at the King's table, no one had cause to complain.

The miscellaneous offices in the palace, connected with the provisioning and housekeeping departments, with all their officers and attendants, were each subject to a set of distinct regulations. Various as these offices had been at Hampton Court in Wolsey's time, they were still more numerous when the whole royal establishment had to be accommodated within the building ; so that we hear, not only of the great kitchens, privy kitchen, cellar, larder, pantry, buttery, scullery, ewery, saucery, wafery, which had formed part of the Cardinal's establishment, but particulars occur also of the King's chawndrie, pastrie, confectionerie, squillerie,

sellerie, spicerie, poultrie, accatrie, washing-house, scalding-house, boiling-house, pitcher-house, still-house, coal-house, fish-house, feather-house, hot-house, pay-house, counting-house, check-house, victualling-house, store-house, etc. All these, with the dwelling-rooms, above them or close by, for the officers, clerks and yeomen of the same, were situated in the irregularly-gabled buildings, enclosed in the many small picturesque court-yards round about the Great Kitchen, Serving Place, etc. Close to these last must have been the spicerie, waferie, pastrie, saucerie, ready for the cooks to handle their confections. Of these there are many remaining features—great arched fireplaces and hatches, and in two or three cases curious old ovens of oval form made of tiles concentrically arranged.

There naturally arises the idea that these great kitchens, with their intricate purlieus, must, in olden days, have been terribly squalid and dirty. Such, however, was not the case. For Wolsey, among his various interests, was a great man for sanitation, and none of the regulations he laid down for the management of the King's household were more stringent than those "for the better avoiding of corruption and all uncleanness out of the King's house, which doth engender danger of infection, and is very noisome and displeasing." Numerous scullions were, accordingly, appointed to sweep and clean twice a day all the court-yards, galleries and places within the Court, and such offences as "the leaving of dishes, saucers or vessels about the house, or the throwing away of any reliques of meat, etc." were punished with summary imprisonment.

Such rigid discipline, enforced by Henry VIII in his household, organised and regulated as it was by the all-comprehending genius and loyal advice of his devoted minister, will seem the more wise and necessary when we note the fact that the area comprised by the kitchens, cellars and offices

DOORWAYS TO "THE DRYNKYNGE HOWSE" AND THE "KYNGES WYNE SELLER"

connected therewith in this palace, was at least 400 ft. in length and 100 ft. in width.

Provision on so vast a scale for the mere gross needs of eating and drinking was seized on, to our countrymen's disparagement, by the Spaniards who came over to England in the train of Philip II, and who commented in severe terms on " the eighteen kitchens and offices in the King's Palace at Hampton Court, and on the astonishing amount of beer consumed."

Now, imagine the scene, on some evening when a grand banquet was being given in the Great Hall to some foreign ambassador and his suite, with all the court assembled to do them honour to the number of several hundred persons, seated at the long tables, with our late, redoubtable, Sovereign Lord, King Henry, Eighth of that name, of blessed memory, himself seated with his guests at the high table on the daïs, in the middle, under the canopy of state.

Imagine the excitement, the rushing to and fro in the kitchens and offices, the eagerness that all should go well; then the minstrels, marshalled in the Serving Place, proceeding along the cloister heading the procession of dishes when :

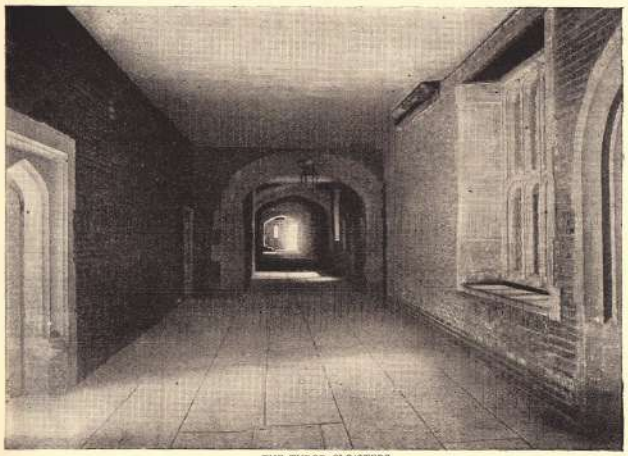
" Fro Kechene came the fyrst cours
With pipes, and trumps, and tabours."

Again, let us stand in this old Tudor cloister, and imagine that we are in the time of James I, and that the performance of a play in the Great Hall before the Court by the " King's Company of Players "—Grooms of the Chamber to His Majesty—is just over. Torches and lanterns are gleaming and flitting about, as down the three staircases leading from the Hall the inhabitants of the Palace are streaming, some on their way to their lodgings; and in the crowd in the cloister, among whom are gentlemen-ushers, officers of the

Revels, the King's musicians, etc., none appear more conspicuous than the players, and not least, such as had not been acting that night—Shakespeare, for instance, attired in his court suit of scarlet cloth with cloak to match. Conspicuous, in a different way and from a different reason, might be Ben Jonson, in vociferous expostulation against the indignity just put upon him by having been, just before the play began, " thrust out " of the Hall by the Lord Chamberlain's " stavemen "—his " chuckers-out," in fact—for some criticisms too noisily and blatantly expressed before the assembled company. [a]We can imagine him with Shakespeare, his fellow players, and the rest of them, crowding into the drinking house, and all foregathering there. Then wine, as well as good English ale, flowed freely, and some of the leading men of the King's Company might be privileged to quaff a cup of " Canary," or " drain a draught of Rhenish down," from the King's special wine cellar, if the " Comptroller of the Cellars " was minded to pledge a playwright or a player from one of His Majesty's choicest flagons.

Thus was it in Tudor and Stuart days. With the advent of the churlish William of Orange and the first two Georges, the old English regal hospitality and the ancient glories of Henry VIII's Great Kitchens, Cellars and Drinking House, passed away for ever.

(a) NOTE—This very curious fact was discovered and communicated to me by my friend Mr. W. J. Laurence, the great historian of the English drama.



THE TUDOR CLOISTERS

DESCRIPTIVE SURVEY

STAIRS TO THE CLOISTER AND CELLARS.

This old staircase which leads from what is now called the "Haunted Gallery" into the cloister, and down which visitors to the Old Kitchen, etc., will go, seems to have been part of Cardinal Wolsey's original building, and possibly was the approach from the ground floor to his Great Hall. For there are unmistakable signs round about here of alterations in older Tudor work made by Henry VIII when he built his Great Watching Chamber.

Notice the interesting old windows with their transoms. The steps are modern deal ones. On the walls are two or three horns belonging to Queen Elizabeth's collection, to which reference is made in the pamphlet on the "Haunted Gallery."

The door with the glazed screen at the foot of these stairs is a modern abomination, erected in the late 'sixties or early 'seventies; it leads directly into the cloister. Emerging from it we come into:

OLD TUDOR CLOISTER AND CELLAR DOORWAYS.

A large part of this seems to have been built by Cardinal Wolsey, though the great arches on the right, which carry the walls of Henry VIII's Watching Chamber above, must have been added by that monarch. The length of the whole of the cloister here is about 250 ft. Directly opposite the door at the foot of the stairs is the doorway into the

"Drynkynge Howse" already mentioned. Turning to the right, we pass on the left hand two doorways leading into Henry VIII's "Wyne Cellar"—also referred to above—the second and larger of the two being the one through which the great butts of wine were trundled. Opposite to it is a window giving a glimpse into one of the little courts, surrounded by offices. Proceeding further we come, on the left, to a recessed wall with a doorway—a modern erection, but leading to an interesting old wooden stairway with the original tiles on the landings. This, which has been blocked up for a couple of hundred years or so by partitions to form cellarage accommodation for the occupants of the Palace, is shortly to be cleared and will be used in the circuit or itinerary round these cellars, kitchens, etc. It leads up into the "Horn Room," in the corner between the Watching Chamber and the Great Hall.

The next doorway opens into a narrow open passage leading to a big stone doorway, bearing Cardinal Wolsey's arms in the spandrels, formed in what is now part of the wall of Henry VIII's Great Hall. It opens on to steps down to another of Henry VIII's cellars—those under the Great Hall, which also, as stated above, will eventually be included in the walk-round. Further along on the left are four very charming old windows of four lights each, high up on the wall, abutting on a small court-yard along the north side of the Great Hall. Opposite these on the right hand side are the archways into :

THE SERVING PLACE.

This, which is one of the most interesting corners of the old Tudor Palace, remains pretty well as built for Henry VIII, though the archways into it from the cloister are modern restorations. It is 60 ft. long by 20 ft. broad. On

THE SERVYNGE PLACE

either side are offices with their serving hatches and "dressers," as they were called. The further two belong to the Great Kitchen, and are, as well as the three other ones, original and entirely untampered with.

One of the old Offices.

Between the two kitchen hatches and the next adjoining one, was unfortunately inserted a modern doorway, though in the Tudor style, in the 'forties or 'fifties of last century, to afford some accomodation for an occupant of apartments near by. All the hatches here were plastered over and hidden until the early 'eighties, and one of them and its adjoining door entirely obscured by a common partition enclosing a passage. The long high window, at the further end, of seven lights, with double iron standards is original, but the doorway cut under them is modern, also of about 1840-5.

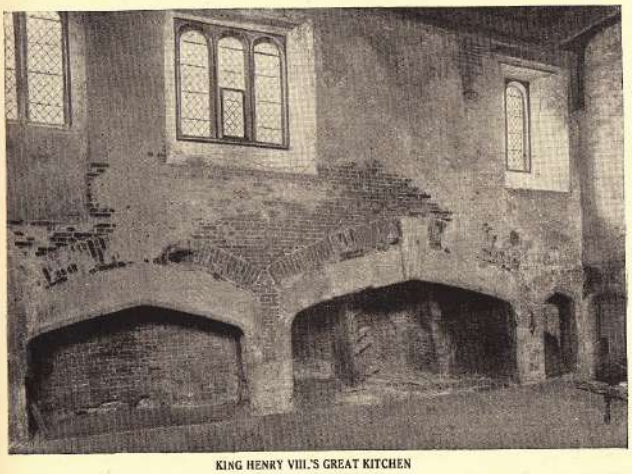
Through the doorway in the corner on the left we pass into :—

HENRY VIII's GREAT KITCHEN.

Here we reach the main objective of our peregrinations : for we enter the largest, most complete and least modernised of any mediæval kitchen in England. That the portion of it which we first see has suffered so little from adaptations

to modern needs is due to the fact that after 1760, when George III, on his accession, abandoned Hampton Court, it was allocated as a lumber or store-room to several successive "grace and favour" residents. The last of these was Mrs. Ellice, widow of Captain Ellice, R.N., who was granted the use of it in 1841, and retained it until her death in 1892. That lady fortunately took much pride in it and did all she could to preserve its ancient features. On her death it was taken over by the authorities and used as a receptacle for storing articles of archæological interest found in the Palace—fragments of old stone carving, artistic wrought iron-work, bits of old oak panelling and decorative work of all sorts. In this way it became an object of a good deal of curiosity and interest to antiquarians, who have been in recent years afforded facilities for seeing it. That it is now to be opened to a larger public is owing in part to a wider and ever extending demand for viewing the surviving remains and memorials at Hampton Court of the romantic days of the Tudors and the Stuarts; in part also as a first step towards the intended clearing and opening of Henry VIII's cellars, etc.

Its unique interest we have already touched upon: for although there are similar or analogous ancient kitchens elsewhere in England—at Staunton-Harcourt and Cowdray, for instance; at Christchurch, Oxford, contemporary with Hampton Court and doubtless by the same architect—none of these remain anything like so intact. The one at Windsor Castle, which was so charmingly portrayed, in 1819, in Pyne's "History of Royal Residences," and which most closely resembled the Hampton Court one, unfortunately succumbed two or three years after to the devastating "improvements" of "Wyatt, the destroyer." Indeed nothing but a mere shell of the original now remains.

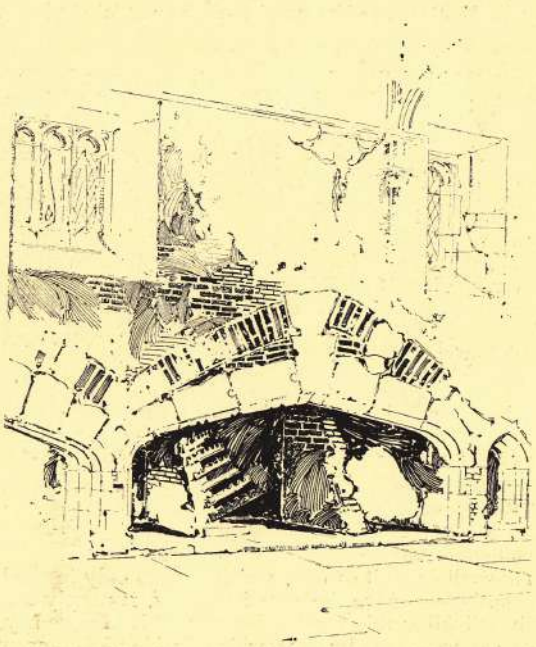


KING HENRY VIII.'S GREAT KITCHEN

The first thing to bear in mind, when we enter this old kitchen, is that we see here only a part—about a third—of Henry VIII's "Greate Kechyn," though complete in itself.

That this identification is correct, there can be little if any doubt; for the accounts of the Clerk of the Works for the three years 1530–1533 make it clear that the whole building—nearly 100 ft. long by 40 ft. broad—was treated and referred to as one. We are confirmed in this view, when we come carefully to examine its whole plan and arrangement. For we find that the main walls of the two divisions of the kitchen are in line, without break, or straight joint; and above all, that the roof was, and is, one continuous structure. Moreover, the fact of there being no sign anywhere of anything like an enlargement or extension of earlier work, would seem to dispose of the idea, formerly entertained, that we have here Wolsey's kitchen. This is more likely to be identified with the one similar to this and with like features, but smaller, some 90 ft. to the east, in a position much nearer to the probable site of Wolsey's hall, which was pulled down by Henry VIII. In any case, even if this surmise be not correct, this whole big kitchen, as we see it now, is unquestionably that which was known in Henry's time as "The King's New Kitchen," or "Great Kitchen."

The wall opposite to us, which reaches only to the level of the springing of the timbers of the roof, is merely a brick partition dividing this portion from a still larger one beyond. This one is 40 ft. long by 38 ft. wide,—inside measurements—and 40 ft. high to the apex of the roof. The other is nearly 60 feet long, the other dimensions being the same. Fortunate, indeed, is it that no "restoration" has marred its antique picturesqueness.



Fireplace in the Great Kitchen.

THE FIRE-PLACES, DOORWAYS, WINDOWS AND HATCHES.

Its most prominent features are the three immense, stone, arched fireplaces, with their retaining brick arches above them, two of them having a span of 18 ft., and being 7 ft. high in the middle. One of them, that on the left or south side, still retains its original roasting fittings. If we stand on the hearth within this fireplace and look upwards we can see the sky through four distinct flues. The fireplace on the right has had built into it a row of ovens, perhaps only dating from early Georgian times, but possibly "the newe hearthes in the Great Kitchen at Hampton Court for boyling of brawnes against Christmas," made in Queen Elizabeth's time. On the right side of it may be found a curious old brick oven of original Tudor construction. Further to the left is an old, wide, arched, stone doorway, or other opening, bricked up in recent times, which led out into the open on the north side. Opposite to this, on the south wall, there is, at each end of it, a similarly bricked-up doorway, giving access, the one on the left to an office, with a serving hatch opening into the Serving Place, the other to a back court, with offices around it.

Hatch in the Great Kitchen.

Other salient features of the section of the kitchen which we are examining are its great mullioned windows. Equally and particularly interesting to notice are the inward sides of the oak-framed hatches, with the original shutting-up flaps, hinged at the top, scarred and blackened with burning—perhaps, as has been suggested, by Tudor scullions using red-hot pokers to close them! Or by torches.

There are items relating to these in the old accounts, thus: "3 hendges of irne servyng to holde up the dressers' wyndows in the haull place kechyn," and "blakk bolts for the dresser wyndows in the new kitchen."

As to the floor; the paving, which shelves slightly down to the centre for drainage purposes, is mostly of York stone and some Purbeck. It was originally "hard ragge."

At the further end of the kitchen, in the dividing wall, are two stone Tudor doorways, in either corner, leading into the other and larger portion of the original "Great Kitchen"; whilst in the middle of it is a wide, Tudor, brick-arched aperture, filled in with quite common, modern brick-work, which should be removed. When this has been done, its purpose, which was perhaps for passing dishes on a dresser from one section of the kitchen to the other, may be made clear. High above this is a little brick niche, which originally opened into the further section of the kitchen, but this also has been filled in with modern bricks, which should likewise be taken out.

THE ROOF OF THE GREAT KITCHEN.

Our next concern must be the roof: but here, alas! a great disappointment awaits the archæologist. For the fine, original, oak-timbered construction has almost entirely disappeared, having been replaced, about the middle of last century, by modern deal rafters of the most commonplace plan and type—plain queen-posts, tie-beams and struts. There can be little doubt that this disaster was due to the old roof having become dangerous, owing to the ravages of the death-watch beetle—the famous Xestobium Tessellatum—for that detestable and mischievous little insect is still at work on the old gable-end oak beams—the present writer having both seen the horrid little beast, and heard him tapping, in one of the beams in the western gable, against the wall of

BY THE HALL-KITCHEN STAIRS

which a bedroom had been built and still remains there. Unfortunately, there was then no Sir Frank Baines to lead the attack on that redoubtable foe of all the mediæval roofs of England, and to save this one here from utter destruction. So it has been lost to us for ever.

If only these modern deal-wood roofs would take to harbouring the death-watch beetle and be quickly and utterly destroyed thereby !

Its construction, however, can be made out from the original, principal, curved rafters which still remain, springing from the stone corbels in the angles of the walls against the eastern gable-end of the kitchen. A similar remnant of the original roof exists against the western gable-end, though it is partly obscured by modern work. On the walls of both sides of the whole kitchen empty corbels still remain in reproach of early-Victorian vandalism.

It is possible that in the upper portion of the middle of the roof there was formerly a louvre, or louvres, or some opening with " luffer " boards, to carry off the smoke—something like what there formerly was in the kitchen at Windsor Castle as shown in Pyne's drawing. But it cannot have been either large or prominent, as there is but slight indication of anything of the sort in Wynegaarde's drawing referred to on a later page.

ARTICLES DEPOSITED IN THE FIRST SECTION OF THE KITCHEN.

Before passing from this portion of the Great Kitchen into the neighbouring one, a few words must be said of the various things that are deposited in it. Over the hatches are four skeletons of birds—called " Wolsey's birds "—having been found at the top of the Great Hall stairs, in an old fireplace which had formed part of the Cardinal's building, but was bricked up by Henry VIII when he built his new hall. Below, between the hatches, is an old mincing

or grinding machine. Further on, fixed on the wall, is an old bell—the " Porter's Bell "—with its iron frame, which was moved from the great gate-house when that was repaired and over-"restored" in 1881. In the corner close by, by the bricked-up doorway, are some pieces of old oak door-frames, removed some forty or fifty years ago from the galleries in the Base Court.

The various kitchen utensils—not all by any means dating from Tudor or Stuart times—either fixed on the walls, standing in the fireplaces, or placed on the table or ovens—need not be particularized here. Other articles may be briefly noted. Against the dividing wall are three charcoal braziers of the time of Queen Anne, used to warm the State Apartments. Fixed on the wall is an old, steel, turnspit, which works by means of a weight on a wheel, and high above are two stags' heads with horns, part of Queen Elizabeth's collection. In the corner between the entrance and the great fireplace on the north wall are: a half of an old Tudor chimney-piece, very beautifully moulded, with the initial" H "—for Henry VIII,—carved in the spandrel; and by its side, against the blocked up doorway, a complete chimney piece of rather later design, with several dates, 1577, 1592, etc., cut on it; and with the initials " H.B. " and the date 1617 scratched on the plain escutcheon in the left hand spandrel. A special feature in the design of this chimney-piece is the way the angles of the spandrels are cut off, a peculiarity generally supposed to be a mark of Jacobean taste, but proved by the dates inscribed on this chimney piece—confirmed by several other examples elsewhere in England—to be of a good deal earlier origin.

WESTERN SECTION OF THE GREAT KITCHEN.

Passing now into the other or western section of the Great Kitchen, we are at once disappointed at the picture it presents—so very different from the one we have just

examined. Here the most salient feature on entering is the ugly, common, blank wall opposite us, built in the later years of the eighteenth century, though the upper unplastered part on the left dates from 1889-90. As it is, it cuts the larger section of the Great Kitchen in two—behind it being the more important half—and so awkwardly as to come up in the middle of the opening of one of the old Tudor windows. This was done in order to provide a separate kitchen and offices for some court official, or other inhabitant of the Palace, the upper storey—in the roof as it were of the original Great Kitchen—being turned, at various times, into bed-rooms, which even extend over this nearer part.

This cut-off part of this section of the Great Kitchen remains, nevertheless, one of the most interesting of the whole. For it retains uninjured two great fireplaces, similar to those just described, and a wide hatch opening on to what was originally a small open court-yard.

Reverting to the part of this section of the Great Kitchen now accessible, one should notice the big fire-place in the north or right-hand wall, as one enters, which, though spoilt by early nineteenth century disfiguring insertions, is yet intact in itself, and interesting—especially from the old oven in the right-hand corner. The ovens, built against the obstructing wall, no doubt of the time of George II, are worth examining. The iron gratings have been discovered within the last few days, as well as a horizontal flue connecting the whole of them.

ARTICLES IN THE WESTERN SECTION.

Otherwise, there is little to claim our attention except the various fragments of old work collected here. Prominent among these, on the built-up wall,are several rows of medallions of " mouldyd worke," which were made for the decoration in 1536-7 of Henry VIII.'s Great Watching Chamber, and not very judiciously taken down about 1890 and replaced by

modern plaster casts. They display the arms and cognizances of Henry and Jane Seymour.

Besides these, on a table and shelves on the left or south wall, are collected carvings of various periods, among them the crown of carved stone, which surmounted Henry VIII.'s arms in the First Green Court ; bits of heraldic carving from Anne Boleyn's Gateway ; several " beastes " that decorated gables and parapets in the West Front ; and keystones of arches and other fragments, rather decayed, representing heads of men and women, removed from Wren's arcade in the " Fountain Court."

In the wall behind the table here there are signs of another great fireplace.

THE OUTSIDE OF THE GREAT KITCHEN.

Before quitting this corner of the old Palace, it would be well if those who are interested in Tudor Domestic Architecture were to step out from the Serving Place into the " Tennis Court Lane," as it is called, to have a look from the outside at the old Kitchen chimney-breasts and the shafts that surmount them. The view is as picturesque as it is curious. In their solidity and massiveness, with their buttressing walls, capped with moulded embrasures, they are admirable specimens of Tudor brickwork. Nevertheless, the clustered, moulded shafts of the chimneys themselves, beautiful and characteristic as they certainly are, yet are, every one of them, modern restorations, mainly dating from the late 'forties or early 'fifties of last century. Like almost all the chimney shafts of Tudor design in the Palace they were the work of the master bricklayer at that period—a most excellent workman named Hurst, full of enthusiasm for the old Palace and devoted to his job. Mainly he modelled them on half-destroyed, original specimens here, but he also studied the problem further afield and introduced

CHIMNEYS OF THE KING'S GREAT KITCHEN

Back Court by the Great Kitchen.

some examples from other places. Some of the best originals are figured in Pugin's "Specimens," drawn early in the nineteenth century before there had been any modern restoration.

The very accurate view drawn by Antonius Wynegaarde in 1558, of the whole of this long-stretching northern side of the Tudor building, distinctly shows these three chimney-breasts of the Great Kitchen, each surmounted by shafts, though not, apparently, of very decorative design. The surveyor of King Henry's works would not, perhaps, have lavished on mere kitchen chimney-shafts much expensive ornamental work.

The archæological visitor should also notice here the seven-light window of the "Serving Place," and between it and the chimney-breast, the bricked-up doorway into the Kitchen which we noticed from the inside.

THE BACK COURT AND OFFICES.

On the other side of the Kitchen are ranged, as has already been stated, various subsidiary offices enclosing several small court-yards. A peep at one or two of these offices may be had in the little "Back Court" on the south side of the Great Kitchen, just about the middle. Here we see another large chimney-breast similar to those in the Tennis Court Lane, doubtless originally capped by a cluster of four chimney-shafts—one for each flue—probably not very ornamental but rather in the style of the simpler shaft close by, which is buttressed by walls topped with stepping-up moulded brick, the bases being of the plainest design.

This "Back Court" is mentioned in the original accounts for the building of Henry VIII's additions to Wolsey's Palace, one of the items referring to the "paving with hard ragge the Bakk Court afore the Kynges Newe Kechyn and the New Offices."