

HANTS FIELD CLUB, 1893.



A. North View of OSBORNE in the ISLE of WIGHT



the Seat of ROBERT POPE BLACHFORD Esq.

OSBORNE, ISLE OF WIGHT, AND THE FAMILIES WHO HAVE HELD IT.

*A Paper read by DR. GROVES, F.G.S., at the Meeting of the
Hampshire Field Club, at Osborne, June 6, 1893.*

The old designation of Osborne was *Austerbourne*, that is to say *Eastern-bourne*, or, as some think, *Oysterbourne*, the oyster having formerly abounded off this coast and in the neighbouring estuary of the Medina.

The records of Osborne, so far as my investigations have gone, are very scanty. I can find no mention of it in Domesday, or of the Manor of Barton. The Manor of *Wipingeham* appears in the list of manors, and this is supposed to refer to Barton, but probably included Osborne. There are two entries under that name. The first states that the King held "Stanberie (Stenbury) and Wippingham. Cheping held it, allodially, as 2 manors of King Edward. It was then assessed at 3 hides; it is now assessed at 2 hides. Here are 7 ploughlands; 2 ploughlands are in demesne; and 7 villagers and 10 borderers employ 6 ploughs. Here are 12 slaves and 5 acres of meadow. It was always, and is, worth 12 pounds." The second entry states that William, the son of Stur, held "Wipingeham. It was held by Bolla; allodially, of King Edward; and was then and is now assessed at 1 hide. Here half a ploughland is in demesne; 2 villagers and 2 borderers occupy 1 ploughland. It was at that time worth 10 shillings."

At the time of Domesday there were 8 principal land-owners in the Isle of Wight; the King—whose lands in the Island came to him by the forfeiture of Roger de Butteville, Earl of Hereford, the son of William FitzOsborne (to whom the Isle of Wight was granted after the battle of Hastings),

in connection with the conspiracy formed at the wedding at Norwich of Roger's sister, Emma, and Ralph de Waer, Earl of Norfolk, which match was opposed by William the King—William and Gozelin the sons of Azor;—William the son of Stur; and the Bishop of Winchester; the Church of St. Nicholas, the Abbey of Wilton, and the Abbey of Lyra, which had six Churches here, one of which was Whippingham; there were also 43 lesser landholders. The King's holdings were 33; William FitzAzor's, 21; Gozelin FitzAzor's, 11; and William FitzStur's, 21. Excluding the King, the FitzAzors and FitzStur held more land in the Isle of Wight than all the other landholders together,

Worsley, in one of the appendices to his history, gives a list of the principal manors, etc., their ancient and present possessors from the Conquest to the year 1780, extracted from ancient deeds, pedigrees and records; and under the Manor of Osborne he names as possessors FitzAzor, Lisle, Chyke, Mann and Blachford. The names of holders of Manors mentioned in Domesday do not, however, always agree with the names of this list. Appleford, for example, is given by Worsley as held by FitzAzor, whereas Domesday gives it as held by FitzStur. Worsley's list of the names of those who have possessed Osborne is also incomplete, for it was held not only by Lisle and Chyke, but by Bowreman Arney, and Lovibond; who were followed by Mann and Blachford.

Whether Osborne was held by FitzAzor, as Worsley says, or whether FitzStur held it along with Whippingham, it would in one case pass in due time by descent to the Lisles—who were apparently the lineal descendants of the FitzAzors—and in the other case by marriage, for we find that in Henry III.'s time—between 1216 and 1272—Walter de Insula, the name by which the Lisles were then known, married the daughter and heiress of the FitzSturs, then called De Estur; and Whippingham (with Osborne probably) and other of the FitzStur estates would pass into the hands of the De Insulas. Indeed, in the next reign, that of Edward I., John de Insula, rector of Shalfleet and Thomas de Winton, rector of Godshill, founded the Oratory of the Holy Trinity, at Barton, which place was chosen, doubtless, because it was the property of De Insula. The date of the

grant of Barton to the Oratory of the Holy Trinity was 1282. This was not the only alliance between the De Insulas and De Esturs, for we find by the Post Mortem Inquisitions of Edward II. that Baldwin de Insula died, seized of the Manors of Gatcombe, Whitwell, and Calbourne (now Westover), which had come to him by marriage with a daughter and heiress of an Estur. This Gatcombe branch of the Lisles came to an end in a daughter in the next reign, that of Edward III.

Walter de Insula, of Henry III.'s time, built the chapel of Wootton, the parish being taken out of Whippingham, for the most part, and endowed it with glebe, arable, pasture and woodlands, adding the tithes of his demesne lands at Wootton and Chillerton. In the list of Liberties and Franchises claimed by Isabella de Fortibus, Lady of the Island, and allowed her 8th Edward I. (1280), by the Itinerant Justices, we find that John de Insula, who is called De Bosco, held the eighth part of a knight's fee in Whippingham. In the 30th year of Edward I. (1302) Sir John Lisle (of Wootton), styled De Bosco, was constituted Warden of the Island and Captain of the Castle of Carisbrooke; he served in seven Parliaments during the latter part of this monarch's reign, and in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of the succeeding reign. Nicholas De Bosco, his brother, was constituted Warden of the Island, by patent, in 1st Edward II., 1307. He was ordered by the King to put Piers Gaveston, Earl of Cornwall, in possession of the Island. Nicholas De Bosco was murdered by Robert Urry, who was tried and imprisoned at Rochester, and Sir John Lisle was reinstated in the wardenship in 3rd Edward II., 1309. As John Lisle was warden in the 18th Edward II., 1325, the inquisition of the watches and beacons were taken before him, and his coadjutor, John de la Huse. In 14th Edward III., 1341, Sir Bartholomew Lisle was one of three wardens elected by the inhabitants to take charge of the defences of the Island during the King's pleasure.

This branch of the Lisles do not appear to have settled down permanently in residence at Wootton until 1410, in Henry IV.'s reign. Worsley suggests that as they were called Lisle de Bosco or De Bosco only, "of the wood,"

the place obtained the name of Woodtown, corrupted to Wootton, but in a return made by the Dean of the Isle of Wight to Woodlock, Bishop of Winchester, in 1305, of the tithes in the Island, it is called Wodyton; and in the account of the watches of the Island, in Edward II.'s reign, it is called Woditon. The lord of Woodyton furnished 6 men-at-arms for the defence of the Island, in 1340, in Edward III.'s reign. In the disposition of the Militia in the Isle of Wight, in the same reign; also, it is mentioned that "John Urry, lord of East Standen, commanded East Standen, Arreton, Whippingham, St. Katherine's, Nettlecombe, Rookley, and Wootton. The lord of Wootton his vintener." Also that "John de Kingston had the command of Kingston, Shorwell, Carisbrooke Park, Northwood, and Watchingwell. The lord of Wootton, Sir John Lisle, for his Manor of South Shorwell (or Westcourt), his vintener."¹ In the parish Church of Thruxton, Hants, is a brass of Sir John Lisle, lord of Wodditon, I.W., who died in 1407. It would appear to be more likely, therefore, that the Lisles were called de Bosco from the place rather than that they gave their name to it. Sir John Lisle, who was Sheriff of Hampshire in 1506, was the last of the direct line of the Lisles or Insulas of Osborne and Wootton. Sir John Lisle left his lands at Wootton to Lancelot, brother of Sir Thomas Lisle. Lancelot left a son Thomas, whose son Anthony was the father of Sir William Lisle, knighted in 1606. One of Sir William Lisle's sons was Sir John Lisle, one of Charles I.'s judges—he did not sign the death warrant—and afterwards a member of Cromwell's House of Lords, and a Commissioner of the Great Seal. He administered the oath to Cromwell as Protector. On the Restoration he fled to Lausanne, in Switzerland, where he was assassinated by three Irish ruffians. His widow was the celebrated Lady Alice Lisle, who was a victim of Jeffreys' Bloody Assize, although she was loyal

¹ "Vintener or lieutenant." Worsley appendix xxix. Originally the *vintenerius* was the person who received the *vintonum*, or tax of the twentieth of the product of the land, due to the feudal lord, and in consideration of which he was responsible for the maintenance of forts, walls of towns, and other means employed to repel the enemy. Hence, in old French, *vingtain* stands for the *enceinte*, or walls of fortress or town.—Ed.

herself and had a son in the royal army, she being convicted for innocently sheltering Mr. Hicks, a Presbyterian minister, and one Nelthorpe, after the battle of Sedgemoor. She was beheaded at Winchester, that concession being granted her, instead of burning, as she was over 70 years of age.¹ Sir John's brother William espoused the Royalist cause during the Civil War, and went into exile with Charles II. He returned with him at the Restoration and eventually became a Master in Chancery. William Lisle was buried at Wootton.

In 1545, when Francis sent a French fleet under Admiral D'Annebaut, to invade England, the opposing fleet was commanded by a member of this family, Viscount Lisle, in the *Great Harry*. The English sailed out of Portsmouth and engaged the French at Spithead, when one of the largest of the English ships, the *Mary Rose*, commanded by Sir George Carew, being top heavy by reason of the weight of her ordinance, turned over and sank very close to the spot where, 237 years after, in 1792, the *Royal George*, the finest ship of the British Navy at that time, capsized, "when Kempenfeldt went down with twice four hundred men." The English were so discouraged by the loss of the *Mary Rose* that they withdrew. With the view, according to Froude, of drawing them out again, the French made a descent upon the Isle of Wight in three detachments—landing at Nettlestone Point, at either Bembridge or Sandown, and in Monk's Bay, Bonchurch—but were repulsed with great slaughter, their leader, Admiral D'Annebaut, being killed by the Islanders, under Captain Richard Worsley, Governor of the Island.

The Wootton Lisles made Thruxton, near Andover, their chief residence, and most of them were buried there. They also had a place at Mansbridge, near Southampton. The last male of this branch of the Lisles was, according to Worsley, Edward Lisle, Esq., of Moyles Court; but I have seen somewhere that the last of the Lisles, a common soldier, died in great obscurity towards the close of the last century—*Sic transit gloria mundi*, as Sir John Oglander is so fond of saying. In the female line the Lisles of Osborne and Wootton are represented by Mr. White Popham; who

¹ See Mr. Fane on "Moyles Court and Dame Alicia Lisle," H.F.C. Papers and Proceedings. Vol. I. Part 3, p. 393.

owns the Manor of Shanklin, in this Island, which was held by Gozelin FitzAzor, in the time of Domesday. He occupies the Manor house; and also owns a mill and certain land and tenements in South Shorwell; but the Manor of South Shorwell was sold in the last century to the Ways, who still farm the land, and is now owned by Lady Gordon, of North Court. Gozelin FitzAzor held South Shorwell in the Conqueror's time. In the female line many families have kinship with the De Bosco Lisles, and among them the Ryders, represented by Lord Harrowby, as head of the house. The Island families of Leale and Lale preserve the ancient name and continue the race sprung from the ancient stock of Stur and Azor.

The Chekes followed the Lisles as lords of Osborne under the old name of Checkenhull. Sir John Oglander, in his memoranda, says of this family:— "The Cheke hills, or Cheke-hulls, from ye place of theyre aboode, as beinge on a hill, as one would say Cheke of ye Hill. This was a verie antient famelye. Theyre habitation in Henry ye 3rd reygne was at Whipinghame, but there were manie famelyes of ye name." In the P. M. Inquisitions of Edward II. appears Juliana, the wife of Hugh de Chighull, Wacklonde, one messuage and sixty acres of land and pasture; "and I verilie conceive these Chekes nowe livinge (1595-1648) amongst us are linioll descended from these Chekehills, and eythor by marridge or purchase came by Motston, where theyre auntient seat as Cheke is. For after Glamorgan left Motston, whose wase ye anntient honor of it, I find ye Chekes immediatly to succeed them; as Cheke of Merstone, and Sir Thomas Cheke of Motston, in Henry ye 8th reign; and as for Boutterville in Northamptonshire, he came out of this Island as one of the auntient Chekehills, and matched with the daughter and heyre of Boutterville and took that name, but continued his own coate; which coate Cheke givinge induceth mee to beleve they come from these Chekehills. But Thomas Cheke, a lewde soun of a discrete fathor, sowlde Motston to Mr. Dylington, 1623, and so much for both these famelyes, both of ye Chekehills and Cheke of Motston, and Cheke of Merstone, and Sir Thomas Cheke of Essex."

In 1280, in Edward I.'s reign, Hugo de Chekenhull held $\frac{1}{8}$ th part of a Knight's fee in Whippingham, and Roger De Chellingwood, holding of Hugo De Chekenhull, as part of the claims of Isabella De Fortibus, the $\frac{1}{3}$ th part of a fee in Chellingwood. In 1285, in the same King's reign, Osborne and Chellingwood contributed three bowmen to the defence of the Island.

Sir John Ogländer says, the Chekes migrated to Mottistone, and in 1374, in Edward III.'s reign, we find Edward Chyke presenting to the Church there. In the same reign, in the disposition of the Militia of the Isle of Wight, the Lord of Modeston, Thomas Chyke, had the command of Modeston, Newtown, Caulborn, and Brixton. Thomas Langford, lord of Chale, his vintener. The Chykes built the present house at Mottistone in the 16th Century. The years 1567 and 1569 on the date stones there probably refer to the remodelling of the house, and the initials T.C. and J.C. over the fire-place in the hall, to Thomas Chyke and Joan or Jane Chyke his wife.

The most distinguished member of this powerful Island family was Sir John Cheke, King Edward VI.'s tutor, of whom Milton said, he "taught Cambridge and King Edward Greek." He belonged to the Mottistone branch of the family, but was born at Cambridge, June 16th, 1514. He was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, and about 1540 became professor of Greek in the University. In 1514, in conjunction with Sir Anthony Cook, he became tutor to King Edward and Canon—probably lay Canon—of Christchurch, Oxford; and subsequently Provost of King's College, Cambridge. His sister Mary was the first wife of his pupil Lord Burleigh. The story of his life is sufficiently well-known, and I need not repeat how he espoused the cause of Lady Jane Grey, was imprisoned by Mary and liberated, seized on the Continent by Philip of Spain's orders, was made to recant and forced to be present at the cruel trials of Protestants, and how he died in exceeding melancholy and trouble of mind on Sept. 13th, 1557. The Sir Thomas Cheke, of Essex, of whom Ogländer speaks, was the grandson of Sir John Cheke, and was knighted by James I. He purchased the estate of Purgo, near Romford, in

Essex, and died in 1659. His eldest son, Col. Cheke, was Lieutenant of the Tower in the reigns of Charles II. and James II. The numerous Island families of Chick, in our day, perpetuate the name of the Chekenhulls, of Osborne.

The Chekes were followed by the Bowermans at Osborne. As with the other old families described the Bowermans were prominent in the Island in connection with a more important Manor than Osborne. They held the Manor of Brook from the 15th to the end of the 18th Century. The Glamorgans held Brook, and in 1363, in Edward III.'s time, Nicholas Glamorgan, the last male heir of that house, died. Isabella, one of his six sisters and heiresses, married Roucley of Rookley, and Brook passed to him. The Roucleys held it a hundred years or more when, as Sir John Oglander says, "The Rookleys also falling into heyres females, the Manor of Brooke came to Bowerman, who maryed one of Rookleys daughtors, being then his servant and wayghtinge upon him." This was Johanna, daughter and heiress of John Rookley, who married Thomas Bowerman. She died in 1501. Rookley's other daughter married Gilbert. Brook was held in common until 1560, when Bowerman bought Gilbert's moiety. Henry VII. came into the Island in 1499 and stayed at Brook House. He was so pleased at the manner in which Johanna Bowerman (*née* Rookley) entertained him that he not only presented her with his drinking horn, but gave her a warrant dated August in that year, for a fat buck of the season, to be yearly delivered out of his forest of Carisbrook (Parkhurst) during her life. This warrant still exists. In 1625 the Isle of Wight possessed a Militia of 2020 effective men who were divided into companies commanded by local gentlemen, among whom was Mr. Borman, of Brook, who commanded a band of 115. In 1638, among the watches and wards kept in the Island, were two kept by Capt. Booreman, one "on Freschwater Downe, a ward and watch, 2 men apeece," and one on "Motson Downe, a watch, 2 men." Thomas Bowerman, of Brook, represented Newport in Parliament, in 1658. In 1792 William Bowerman sold Brook. Some of his descendants are still living at Winchester. I am told a tombstone

was cut in Newport not long since to the memory of one Bowerman, but I do not know the name in the Island at the present time.

In the reign of Henry VIII. the line of Bowerman, of Osborne, ended in Richard Bowerman, whose daughter and heiress married John Arney, to whose possession Osborne passed. In 1533 the right of possession was contested between Nicholas Bowerman and John Arney, when it was awarded to the latter. I can find no other record of the Arneys.

Twenty-seven years after, in 1560, Osborne was purchased by John Lovybond. Oglander says: "Lyvibond hath been an antient name in our Island. Thomas bwylyt ye newe house at Osberon, which his soun solde to Captaynie Maun, and hath been ye ruine of that howse; soome bwyldeth and some destroyeth. The owld man Thomas Liviboné (or as some imagine de la bone Isle) wase an honest able gentleman."

The Manns held Osborne from 1630 to 1705. In an old family record I find it stated that the Manns came into the Island in James I.'s time, and Eustace Mann bought Osborne in Charles I.'s time, soon after he became king, and Merstone in Charles II.'s time. Merstone seems to have followed the fortunes of Osborne as regards ownership. Eustace Mann was a strong adherent of Charles I. He is said to have become much alarmed at the depredations of the Parliamentarians, and decided to bury a large sum of money, which he is said to have done in a copse at Osborne, at a spot he forgot to mark. Whether this be so or not, a copse to the east of the house adjoining Barton Wood is known as Money Coppice; and at the Restoration Mann obtained a grant from the Crown of all waifs, strays, wrecks, and treasure trove, and the privilege of free warren for the Manor of Osborne, and Worsley says, "this grant is now in the hands of the lord of the manor," that is to say, in 1781. Eustace Mann gave the fine 17th Century Communion Service to Newport Church, part of it in 1630 and the remainder at the end of the Century, probably about 1698, as it is stamped with the figure of Britannia, the standard mark for silver, adopted 1st William III., 1697. I have not

been able to find the date of Eustace Mann's death, but had he been alive in 1698 he must have been very old. The plate marked with the Britannia was probably given by his son, John Mann, who endowed the schools at Arreton, and left a large amount of money in charities—Mann's gifts, as they are called. He died in 1705.

Elizabeth Mann, the sole heiress of John Mann, married Blachford, of Sandhall, near Fordingbridge, Hants. Her son, Robert Blachford, succeeded to Osborne.

On a brass in the Chancel of Whippingham Church, which apparently records the names on tombs existing before the Church was rebuilt, I find that Anne, the wife of Robert Blachford, died April 17, 1713, ætat 42; Robert Blachford died Oct. 31, 1715, ætat 42; and Robert, the son of Robert Blachford, died May 30, 1729, ætat 30. Worsley says that Robert Pope Blachford, the grandson of Elizabeth Mann, built the house. If so there must have been another son of Robert Blachford, who died in 1715, named Robert Pope. In the family record of which I have spoken it is said that Blachford, of Osborne, married the aunt or great aunt of Mr. John Pope, of Redway, a progenitor of the Roaches' and Gibbses', and hence the name of Pope in the Blachford family. On a tablet in Whippingham Church it is recorded that Robert Pope Blachford, born 1742, and Winifred, his wife, daughter of Sir Fitz William Barrington, Bart., of Swainston, in the parish of Calbourne, born 1754, both died at Aix, France, and were buried at Marseilles, A.D., 1790. One wonders what ailment proved fatal to these two who were seeking health at Aix. On the brass in the chancel it states that Barrington Pope Blachford, who was their son, was born on Dec. 3, 1783, and died May 4, 1816. He married Lady Isabella, the daughter of the Duke of Grafton. She had an only son, Fitzroy Blachford, who was born Sept. 18, 1814, and died unmarried April 10, 1840, and a daughter who died recently at Hampton Court, where her mother and she were granted apartments by the Queen. Their trustee was Sir Richard Simeon, Bart., of Swainstone, Barrington Pope Blachford's kinsman. The Blachfords held Bowcombe and Merstone, and the great tithes of Carisbrooke, besides farms in the east of the Island. I have learnt from the son

of Barrington, Pope Blachford's steward, that his father left him Osborne free and £40,000; but when he died the property was much encumbered. He was a Lord of the Admiralty and had a yacht. He farmed Barton. A story is told, and it is a true one, that a 40 acre field on Barton one year produced 40 loads of wheat, which were sold for £40 a load, which was paid in sovereigns, at East Medina Mill, on delivery,

There may have been a Saxon hall with its bowers at Osborne, followed by an early English hall, in which hospitality was dispensed, and which was occupied in succession by the Lises, the Chekenhulls, and the Bowermans, but there is no record of such. The only record of a dwelling at Osborne before that of the 18th Century, is the note of Sir John Oglander, which, however, suggests the existence of an older one, that "Thomas Lyvibond built the new house at Osberon," which his son sold. This was probably a Jacobean house, similar to those now existing at Arreton, Yaverland, Wolverton, Sheat, and Merstone. There are the remains of this house in the basement of the present palace, used as cellars. The massive Bembridge limestone buttressed walls of these cellars appear to be of earlier date than James' time, and possibly they formed the foundations of a Tudor mansion or of a building which stood there even before the Tudor period. It was the house of Thomas Lovibond which Robert Pope Blachford pulled down in the middle of the last century, when he built the Georgian house which the Queen bought.

The Queen, then Princess Victoria, resided with her mother, the Duchess of Kent—the first time, I believe, in 1830, and several times subsequently—at Norris Castle, which was built by Wyatt for Lord Henry Seymour, in 1804. Many still live here who remember the Queen as a girl and her companion, Miss Victoria Conroy, the daughter of Sir John Conroy, who was the Duchess of Kent's secretary. In 1844 the Queen took Osborne and Barton for twelve months, with an understanding that she was to have the option of purchase as a price agreed upon, at the end of that time; and on May 1, 1845, Osborne was purchased under this agreement. On Monday, June 23rd, 1845, at 10

o'clock in the morning, the Queen laid the first stone of the west wing. Her Majesty was accompanied by the Prince Consort, the Prince of Wales, and the Princess Royal, and attended by the Earl of Aberdeen, Lady Portman, and the builder, Mr. Thomas Cubitt. The flag tower was built over the foundation stone. The west wing or pavilion was finished at the beginning of 1846, and occupied in September of that year. The household wing was next built and finished at the beginning of 1848, and the clock-tower was completed in November of that year. The clock was placed in the tower in September, 1849, and the upper terrace was finished in November. Early in 1850 the terrace walls and staircases were finished, and in October the servant's dormitory was completed; and the Royal Children's Gardens were begun and planted by them. The old house was levelled and the main wing of the new house was finished in 1851. In July, 1853, the fountain on the lower terrace was completed.

From this time various improvements and additions were made to the house year by year. In 1866 a smoking room was added, and in 1880 a Prayer Room was commenced, which was finished in 1884. In 1887 the dormitory was lengthened by additional rooms built to the S.E. of the building; and in 1890 the building of the new wing on the N.W. side of the pavilion building was commenced. This wing, which contains the magnificent Indian Hall and the apartments of Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg, was completed in 1892.

While the house was being built the estate was developed and largely added to by the purchase of adjoining properties; roads were made, trees planted, and the land drained. Barton House was rebuilt in 1846, and the Prince built new farm buildings at Barton, and devoted that special attention to the use of steam power in farming, and to improved farm machinery and implements, which gave such an enormous impetus to agriculture at this time. In May 1854 the Swiss Cottage was given over to the Royal Children, in which they formed a museum and learnt dairy work, and around which they cultivated the garden plots which interest visitors so much. In 1889 and 1890 the Queen's Pavilion brought from

the Royal Agricultural Society's Show, at Windsor, was erected. In addition to the oak woods and plantations formed on the estate some 250 memorial trees have been planted by the Queen and Prince Consort, the Royal Children and their friends, and by distinguished visitors at Osborne, from 1844 to the present time. Many of these are magnificent specimens and some are of great rarity. Among the earliest planted are two myrtles, one raised from a sprig of the wreath placed on the head of the Prince Consort's father, when his body was lying in state at Gotha; and the other was raised from a sprig cut of the nosegay presented to the Queen on leaving Gotha, September 3, 1845, by the Prince Consort's Grandmother, the Dowager Duchess of Saxe Gotha and Altenburg. They are growing against the S.E. end of the lower terrace wall. To give some idea of the work done in developing the estate it may be stated that in 1864 the covered drains were 362 miles in length, with many miles of open drains throughout the woods. The gravel roads, drives and foot-paths, exclusive of gravel walks belonging to the numerous cottages on the estate, were 21 miles long.

The Palace, which was designed by Prince Albert, is in the Palladian style of architecture. It is approached on the north by an ascent of terraces. The first terrace wall is 17ft. high, and the second 10ft. high. The building consists of a rusticated basement and two stories above. The angles have moulded quoins, and the whole is surmounted by a bold cornice and a balustrade parapet. The flag tower, which is 107ft. high, communicates with an open corridor, which extends the whole of the north west face of the building. The west wing or pavilion has a semicircular front, with balconies facing north, and apart from the new north west wing, forms a square of between 70ft. and 80ft., and is about 60ft. high. The roof is flat and paved to form a promenade. In order to do this the chimneys have been brought to the centre around the well staircase of the building, which is lighted by a skylight. This wing contains the Royal apartments and the dining-rooms and drawing-rooms. The central portion of the house contains the apartments of the Queen's household, the Duke of Connaught's apart-

ments, Guest Rooms, Council Chamber, Archives Room, and the Lord Chamberlain's Office. The south wing is appropriated to the lords and ladies in waiting. The clock tower or campanile, which is 90ft. high, adjoins the eastern wing or pavilion. Every room is fireproof; very little wood has been employed in the construction of the building, the girders being of iron; and the whole is built of brick and cement stuccoed to represent stone. The fountains and flower stands are from the designs of Grüner. It is needless to say the views from the house are most extensive.

The estate is bounded on the south by the high road from Ryde to Newport; on the north by the Solent; on the east by the Palmer's Brook; and on the west by the estuary of the Medina. It contains several farms, Barton being the most important. The cottages on the estate are model buildings designed by the late Prince Consort, and are, together with the fertility of the land, much of which was formerly sterile, enduring monuments to the enlightenment of that illustrious and ever to be lamented Prince.

