

Some account of Domestic architecture
in England from the Conquest to the end of
the 13th
OXFORD, PARIZER 1851.

pp. 161-163.

COGGS, OXFORDSHIRE.

161

a plain circle, the lights being trefoiled, with early soffit cusping. The only way of accounting for the difference of the two is by supposing the hall itself belongs to an older building, and that when the licence to crenellate was obtained, the tower (which presents no feature earlier than the date of the licence) and the opposite end, as well as the moat and the original wall of the court-yard, of which some fragments remain, were added to it. At all events this is a suggestion worth attending to, and which there are good grounds for believing that future observations would confirm.

This description is from notes and sketches made in June 1845.

COGGS, OXFORDSHIRE.

This manor was the property of the Greys of Rotherfield; "Robert Grey had the Barony of Coges near Whitney, by the gift of his uncle Walter de Grey, archbishop of York¹." The manor-house is partly of the thirteenth century; the side of it next the garden, in which there are two good Early English windows, is clearly of that date, and it is probable that some of the other walls are also original; but the house was partly rebuilt in the Elizabethan period, and alterations still more recent have been made.

COTTESFORD, OXFORDSHIRE.

Cottesford is a small secluded village consisting of very few houses, and lying about five or six miles north of Bicester.

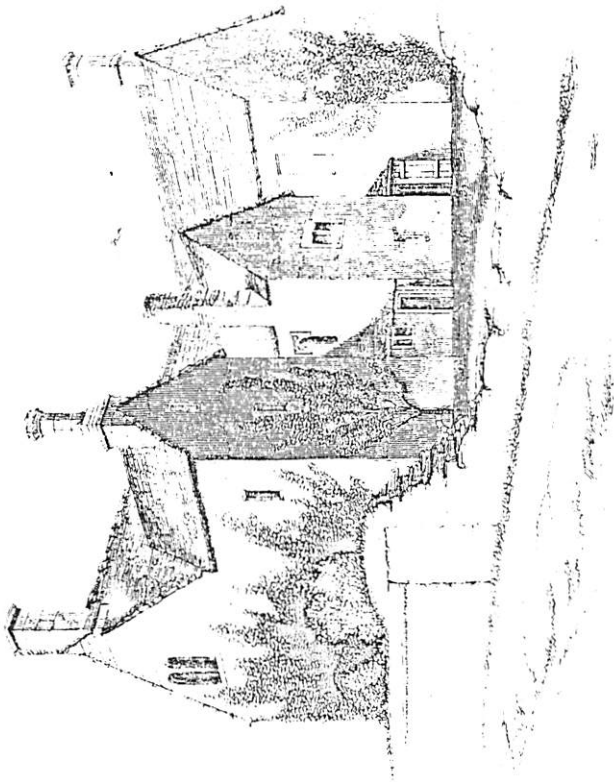
The original plan of the manor-house of Cottesford, as

¹ Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, p. 223, ed. 1695. In 5 Edward II. John Cogges, and there was on the same a chief messuage, with a garden, valued at 4s. yearly. Esc. 5 Edw. II. no. 61.

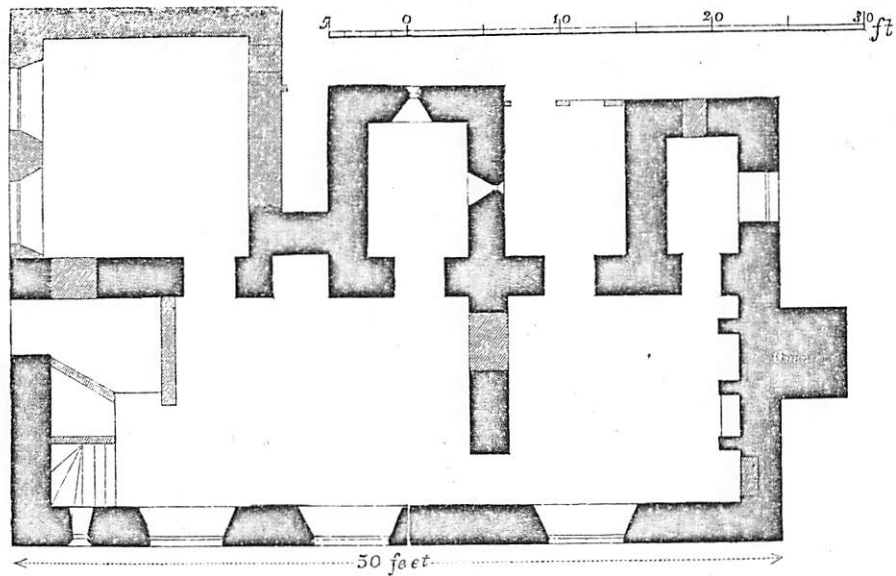
far as it can now be made out, was a parallelogram with two, or probably three square projections at the back. The ground-floor consists of two large rooms, one of which to the north is the kitchen, and the other the hall or common living room. The two projections contain the cellar and larder at present, though the one to the north-west was probably originally used for a different purpose. These are lighted by small narrow square-headed windows, which are evidently original. In the hall is a large open fire-place with a projecting hood. In the kitchen are two fire-places and the oven; the general thickness of the walls is two feet six inches. At the south end an addition containing the parlour has been added in comparatively modern times.

The first floor presents nothing remarkable but a small closet about six feet square in the north-west projection, and which adjoins one of the bed-rooms. In this there is a small window looking to the north, and under it a kind of projecting bench, on which is fixed a stone drain one foot eight inches in length by ten inches deep, and which has evidently been intended for pouring away refuse water, &c. The outside of the wall is here covered with ivy, so that the external part of the drain cannot be seen. From the door of this closet a small narrow wooden staircase leads into the attics which are in the roof. This is very strong and massive, with tie-beams and queen-posts, and appears to be of the date of the sixteenth or seventeenth century, at which time many important alterations were made in the house. In the northernmost of the attics is the window shewn in the plate, which has had internal shutters and bolts. The principal stairs are at the south-east angle of the building, and lead out of the hall.

Externally the only parts which have preserved their original character are the north end and back, the front having been almost entirely altered, only one of the small



OLD MANOR HOUSE,
COTTESFORD, OXFORDSHIRE.

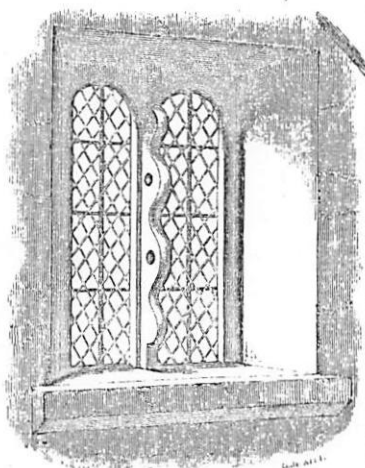
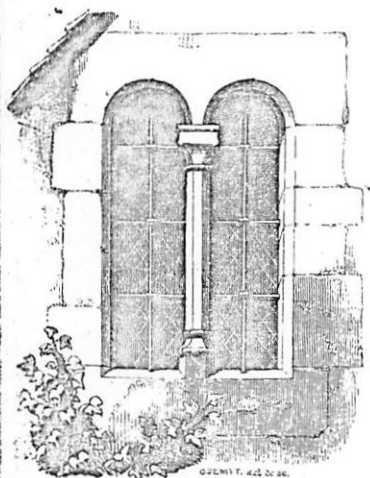


EAST FRONT

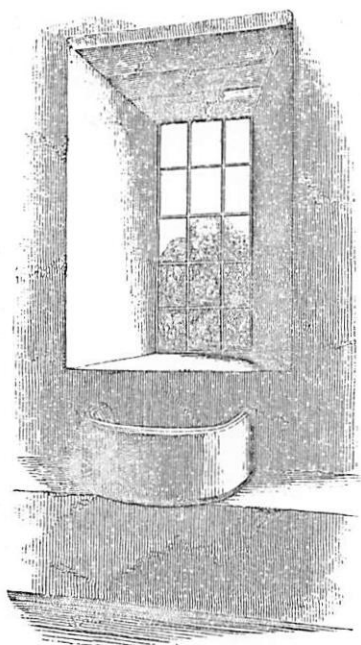
PLAN OF MANOR HOUSE, COTTESFORD, OXFORDSHIRE.

DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE : THIRTEENTH CENTURY.

OLD MANOR HOUSE, COTTESFORD, OXFORDSHIRE.



WINDOW IN THE NORTH END EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR.



DRAIN IN A SMALL CLOSET.

square windows before mentioned, remaining to shew that the wall itself is original. The whole of the windows of the front, including those in the attic, appear to have been inserted at the end of the sixteenth or beginning of the seventeenth century. They are large, with wooden mullions and transoms. The front and ends were at that time also, plastered and ornamented with pargetting work.

The chief objects of interest on the exterior are the attic window on the north end before mentioned, and the chimney on the north-west projection. The window appears to be of transition work of the end of the twelfth or beginning of the thirteenth century, and consists of two round-headed lights divided by a shaft. The capital is square on the abacus, but cut down below to the shape of the shaft, (which is octagonal,) and appears to have been ornamented at the angles with plain broad foliage. This window, as mentioned before, had internal shutters and bolts. The date here given seems to be that of the older parts of the building, but the chimney just mentioned seems to be of the fourteenth century. It is octagonal, standing on a square base, and is crested with battlements, the flue belonging to it is carried down the interior of the wall into one of the lower stories, but the fire-place being destroyed it is not possible now to say which. On the first floor of the middle projection is a small window of fifteenth century date, and now blocked up.

There is no appearance of a chapel having been attached to the house, but the near proximity of the parish church would render that appendage unnecessary.

The old parsonage at West Tarring is in part of this century; it has however undergone so much alteration that