

LOUGH FEA

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Lough Fea by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

LOUGH FEA

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Welcome to the alder plain,
English, Scotch, or Irishman;
Welcome of high or low degree,
Gentle or simple an ye be;



Welcome to the lake whose shore
Is fringed with rushes as of yore;
Welcome, and take this book with thee,
A guide to what there is to see.

SECOND EDITION.

London: privately printed, 1869.



LOUGH FEA.



LOUGH FEA, the Lake of the Rushes, so called from the margin of rushes which fringe its shores, gives name to the manorial residence of the Shirley Family near the town of Carrickmacross, in the Barony of Farney and County of Monaghan.

The house is built on a rising ground, surrounded by well-wooded hills, in the Townland of Duehatty, or "The black town," not far from a place of some antiquity which had been in former times the seat of a gentleman's family, who held their lands

*Farney, the
Country of Alder
Tree.*

under the Shirley Family, as "Middlemen," a position no longer to be found on the Shirley Estate.

The building was begun by the late Evelyn John Shirley, Esq. in the year 1825. Its style is Elizabethan, selected as well-suited to the surrounding scenery, and to an estate granted by Queen Elizabeth to Walter Devereux, the first Earl of Essex, in the year 1576, the Husband of her Cousin Lettice Knollys.

Lough Fea House is erected entirely of free-stone found on the Estate, and something after the manner of a College; on the right is the Great Hall, on the left the Chapel, in front the principal living rooms; over the entrance porch are the arms of Shirley with the quarterings of Basset of Drayton, Braose, Devereux, Plantagenet, and Ferrers, and the date 1838.

Walter, Earl of Essex, married Lettice, daughter of Sir Francis Knollys, by Katherine, daughter of William, Lord Hunston, and Mary Boleyn, daughter of Thomas Boleyn, Earl of Wiltshire, sister of Queen Anne, the mother of Queen Elizabeth.

DINING ROOM.

The ceiling of the Dining Room is ornamented with the initials E. I. S. and the Horseshoe badge. Here are the following Portraits :—

1. Walter Devereux, first Earl of Essex, copied, in the year 1858, from the original belonging to Lord Bagot at Blichfield: half length in armour.
2. Robert Devereux, second Earl of Essex, the unfortunate favourite of Queen Elizabeth, and son of the first Earl: whole length in armour, by *Mireveldt*.

On this curious portrait is the following inscription :—

“ ROBERT DEVEREUX EARLE OF
ESSEX EARLE MARSHALL OF ENGLAND
AND LORD DEPUTIE OF IRELAND.
VISCOUNT HEREFORD BARON FERRERS
OF CHARTLEY, LORD BOUCHIER AND
LOVAINE: MASTER OF THE HORSE
AND GROOME TO QUEEN ELI-
ZABETH. KNIGHT OF THE GARTER: ”

Lough Fea.

7

ONE OF HER MAJESTIES PRIVY COUNSELL, AND CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE."

A jewel hangs from his neck representing the Queen encircled by true lover's knots.

3. Queen Elizabeth, whole length, by *Mereveldt*, with the following legend: "NON SINE SOLE IRIS."
- 4, 5. Heads of James I. and his Queen, Anne of Denmark, by *Pourbus*.
- 6, 7. William III. and the Earl of Portland, K.G. in ovals after *Netfcher*.

LIBRARY.

The ceiling is taken from that of "The Brown Room" at Wifton in Suffex, the ancient feat of the Shirleys of that place.

Above the fire-place is a curious Flemish carving, representing the Passion of our Blessed Saviour, of the latter part of the fifteenth century.

Here are Portraits of the late and present Mr. Shirley; the former a copy, by Mr.

Who were a younger branch of the Shirleys of Eastington.

Lough Fea.

Mornewick, of the original Picture at Easington, painted by the elder Pickersgill in 1822, and the latter by Mr. Catterson Smith, executed in 1868.

In this Room is preserved a curious and valuable collection of books, relating to the history and antiquities of Ireland, collected by the present Mr. Shirley.

SOUTH ROOM.

The chimney-piece is made from the marble and alabaster found on the estate.

Pictures :—

1. Charles I. in armour, by old *Stone*, a fine whole length.
2. The Raifing of Lazarus, by *Langetti*.
- 3, 4. Two Battle pieces, by *Borgognone*.
5. Robert Shirley, Lord Ferrers of Chartley, afterwards Earl Ferrers and Viscount Tamworth, painted in the Robes which he wore at the Coronation of James II. in 1685, and given to Mr. Shirley by the Dowager Duchefs of Sforza in 1868. It was formerly at Ratcliffe

Formerly in
Lord Onflow's
collection.

Hall, in Leicestershire, and is ascribed to *Kneller*.

WITHDRAWING ROOM.

The windows bear the royal cipher of Queen Elizabeth and that of her favourite the Earl of Effex. The cornice is ornamented with the Rose of England and the knot which was the badge of the Bouchiers, Earls of Effex, ancestors of the Devereux's. There are the following among other Pictures:—

- 1, 2. Two Landscapes, a coast scene with ships, and a storm and shipwreck, by *Brooking*.
3. An Archery Party, by *Teniers*.
4. Spanish Peasants gambling and smoking, by *Velasquez*.
5. A Wood scene with Gypsies, by *Morland*.
6. A Portrait of the Admirable Crichton, by *Abraham Janssens*, (oval,) painted in 1604.
7. A curious Picture, said to represent Charles II. in a coach on the shore of Scheveling, by *Vander Poel*.
8. A small Landscape with oriental figures and horses, by *Adrian Vandervelde*.