

**THE CASTLES & OLD  
MANSIONS OF  
SHROPSHIRE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649413447

The Castles & Old Mansions of Shropshire by Frances Stackhouse Acton

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

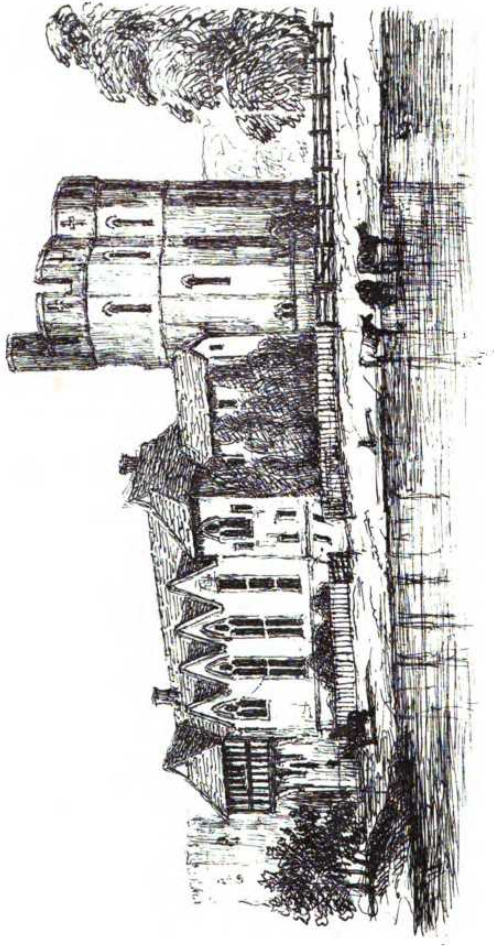
[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**FRANCES STACKHOUSE ACTON**

**THE CASTLES & OLD  
MANSIONS OF  
SHROPSHIRE**



PROSPECT CASTLE



THE  
CASTLES & OLD MANSIONS  
OF  
SHROPSHIRE.

---

Shrewsbury:

LEAKE AND EVANS, PUBLISHERS, MARKET SQUARE.

---

MDCCLXVIII.

To

Sir Charles Rouse Broughton, Bart.,

(Without whose kindly encouragement it would not have been attempted.)

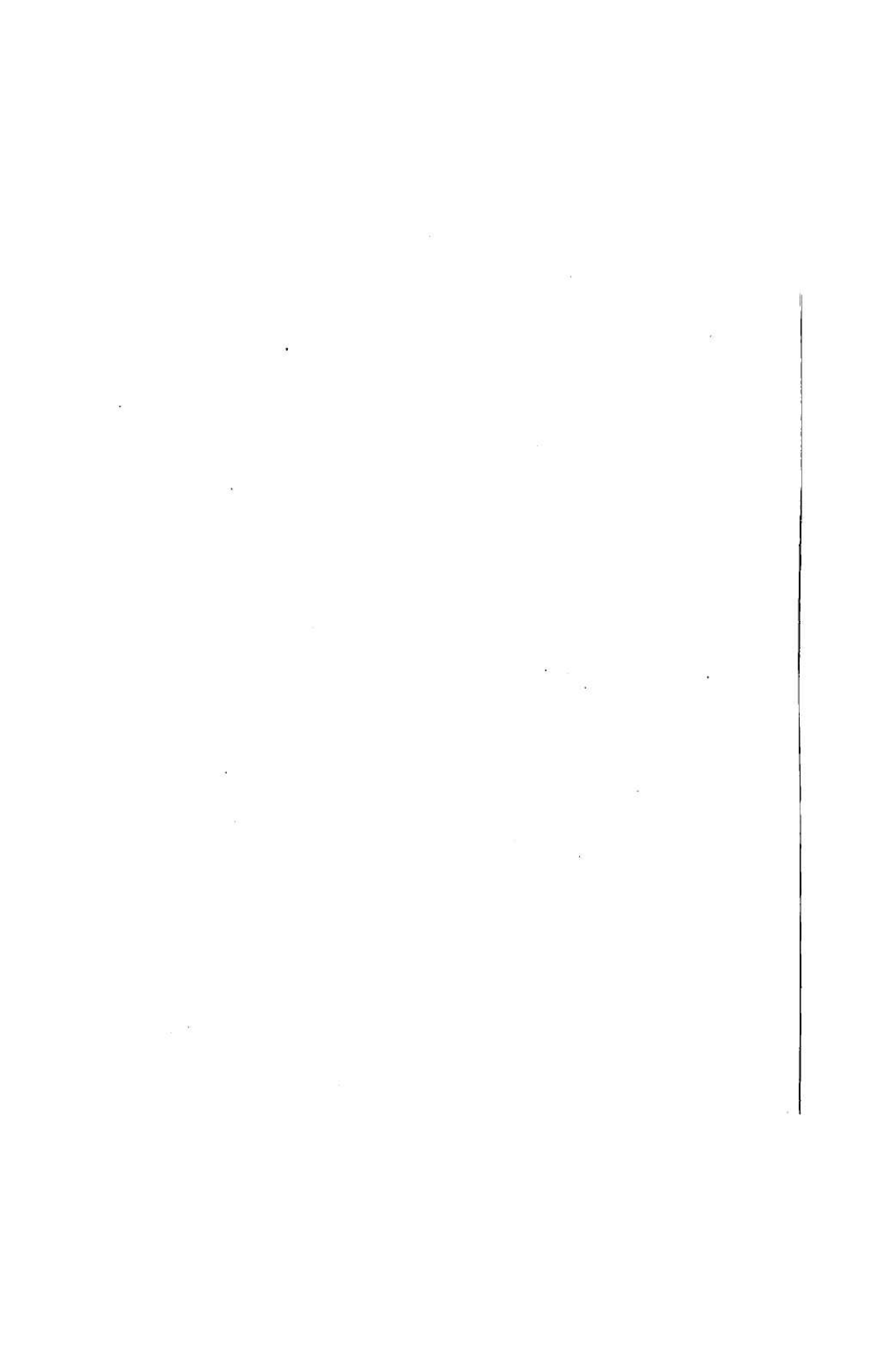
And to His Sisters,

This little Work is dedicated in remembrance

Of many years of

Happy and Affectionate intercourse, by One, who like many of the

Old Houses will soon have passed away.





## INTRODUCTION.



**T**HE Anastatic Societies having met with encouragement in the object of preserving memorials of Old Buildings, (not of sufficient importance to deserve a place in Archaeological works of a more expensive character,) together with the very unexpected result of an attempt to raise a small sum for an unfortunate family by the publication of a little volume of extracts relating to the places in Shropshire which were made Garrisons in the Civil War of Charles I.; have given rise to suggestions from various quarters, that a similar volume, consisting of sketches of some of the old Mansions of the County might produce a small sum in aid of the funds of the Salop Infirmary, and the Eye and Ear Dispensary; and in this hope the attempt is made. The greater part of the sketches have been taken from nature, and others have been copied from old drawings. The Anastatic process has no claim to any higher merit, than that it is capable of giving correct outlines, (and in abler hands this would have been done more successfully), and its cheapness, which enables a number of examples to be given at a small cost.

The short historical notes have chiefly been derived from Mr. Eyton's *Antiquities*, *Blakeway's Sheriffs of Shropshire*; and the few architectural descriptions have been mostly abridged from Mr. Parker's *Domestic Architecture*.

In all cases where it has been possible the names of the Builders, and the dates of the Buildings have been ascertained; but of the small Manor Houses often little is known, except that the property was in possession of certain persons at the time that the style of the building would indicate it to have been erected, and the Sketches have been arranged accordingly, as tending in some degree to show the changes produced in Domestic Architecture, by the progress of civilization, and the altered habits of the people.

The Keep Tower and the Hall were the distinguishing features in the Norman Castle, in the latter the family dined, while the vassals congregated round its central hearth during the day; and on its floor they slept at night. The earliest specimen of a Baronial Hall, in any state of preservation, in Shropshire, is that of Stoke-Say Castle, which was in existence before 1290. In the 14th century the Dining-room had begun to supersede the Hall; the necessity for a large number of dependents had ceased in consequence of the establishment of independent traders, and workmen; Serfs were no longer fed at their Master's tables; and the more tranquil state of the Country when the wars of the Roses had terminated, rendered it no longer necessary to have a band of armed retainers on the spot: and guests were not accompanied by so many followers.

There appears to have been an interval between the Edwardian, and the Elizabethan periods, during which few Domestic Buildings were erected in the border countries; fortresses were no longer necessary, and the inhabitants had not recovered from the ruinous effects of the struggles between the rival houses of York and Lancaster, and had not yet acquired sufficient wealth by habits of peaceful industry to expend much on their houses. Shropshire however possesses two buildings of the 15th century, which Mr. Parker considers to be among the best examples in England, viz:—the Prior's House belonging to Wenlock Abbey, and an old House in Butchers' Row, in Shrewsbury,—the one of a Country, the other of a Town House. He also, in his work on Domestic Architecture, mentions Langley and Plaish Halls as good specimens of the time of Henry VIII; whilst Elizabethan and Jacobean Houses, almost every parish furnishes examples, from the rich details of Moreton Corbet, and the beautiful outline of Condover among the stone buildings, and of Pitchford and Park Hall among those of timber, (the latter a style of building almost unknown except in the western counties of England), to the small picturesque Houses, once the homes of gentlemen of moderate fortunes, now abandoned by their descendants, and only occupied as farm-houses. Some of these small specimens have been selected for this work, with the view of affording hints for building farm-houses and cottages of the present day. Probably many better examples than those given may have been overlooked, but as the object of this work is to add a mite to the funds of two charitable Institutions, it is hoped that its shortcomings will be treated with indulgence, and that the admirers of old houses will deem it better to have these humble records of some specimens that have already passed away, and of others that have been much altered and defaced, rather than that all remembrance of the homes of their forefathers should be lost.

# THE CASTLES

AND

## OLD MANSIONS OF SHROPSHIRE.



**T**HE state of this County in the Norman period is thus described by Camden. "Shropshire is replenished with castles standing thicke on every side, by reason it was a frontier Country in regard of repelling the Welshmen in the marches bordering thereupon; where our ancestors by an ancient word, named the confines of this Shire towards Wales, the Marches, and divers noblemen in this tract were called Barons of the Marches, or Lords Marchers, who had every one in his owne territory a certaine jurisdiction in their owne courts, ministered law unto the inhabitants, with sundry priviledges and immunities."—*Camden's Brit.*

The Norman lords, to whom the most considerable grants of land held of the Crown for military service were made, were Fitz Alan for Clun and Oswestry; Fitz Warrene for Whittington and Alberbury; Le Strange for Ellesmere, Knockin and Middle; and Peter Corbet for Caua.