

SHAKESPEARE'S COUNTRY

James II., and took a leading part in the Revolution. He crowned William and Mary, and finally retired from public life, disappointed, it is said, at not being made Archbishop of Canterbury, and died at Fulham in 1713. The house was besieged in 1664 by the Parliamentary forces, who finally captured it, taking therein the Earl's brother, 14 officers, and 120 soldiers. Besides these prisoners, £5000 in money, together with horses, sheep, cattle, and eighteen loads of other plunder, were taken away. Dugdale, in his Diary, writes, "The rebels, with 400 foot and 300 horse, forced Compton House, drove the park and killed all the deer, and defaced the monuments in y^e church." An attempt was made to retake it in the next year, but the Royalists, after having captured the stables, were driven off with considerable loss. The eighth Earl, as a result of gambling, and spending money over contested elections, at that date (1768) nearly as good a way of getting rid of money, so exhausted his patrimony, that it was found necessary to cut down the old timber and sell the furniture of the house, which subsequently fell into a state of disrepair, so that Beesley, writing in 1841, states that, "the whole church is, as well as the house, in a very desolate and neglected state." It has since been repaired and refurnished.

The house is partly built of stone, partly of brick, and partly is half-timbered, the stacks of brick chimneys forming a most picturesque part of the edifice. It is partly surrounded by a