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THE STATELY HOMES OF ENGLAND.

II.

HEVER CASTLE.

THE early home of the murdered wife of Henry VIII. and mother of Queen Elizabeth is invested with tragic associations. As an initial cut to the description of Hever Castle, the authors of the "Stately Homes of England," to which sumptuous volume we are indebted for the illustrations which accompany this paper, give an engraving of a headsman's block covered with a velvet pall, on which lies the royal crown of England, and against which leans the headsman's axe—a symbol of the dark tragedy by which a crowned head was brought low.

In an old manor-house at Hever, near the river Eden, in Kent—which, under a license of Edward III., had been fortified as a castle—dwelt Sir Thomas Boleyn, descended from an ancient Norfolk family. Here was born to him a daughter Anne. In that sequestered place was her childhood passed—happy had she never gone beyond the moated walls of her father's house, to see more of the living world than she knew when she knelt in the village church, amid the tenants of her father's manor. When only seven years of age, the little Kentish girl was appointed maid of honour to King Henry's sister, the Queen of France.

* *The Stately Homes of England.* By LLEWELLYNN JEWETT, F.S.A., and S. C. HALL, F.S.A. Two vols. in one; pp. 400 and 360, with 380 engravings. New York: R. Worthington. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price, \$8.