

SHAKESPEARE'S COUNTRY

in the monarch's favour. "Nay," says Dugdale, "he quickly grew in such farther favour with that K., that he was the same year advanced to be chief gentleman of his said bed-chamber; and within three years after, in consideration of his good and faithfull service, had a special grant to himself and his heirs of an honourable augmentation to his arms, out of the said King's own royall Ensigns and Devises; viz., a *Lion passant gardant Or*; and for his Crest, a *demi Dragon erased gules, within a Coronet of gold, upon a torse Argent and vert.*" In 1509 he determined to build a house at Compton Wynyates, and for that purpose pulled down another building at Fulbroke, which had been given to him by the King, and transported part of its materials, including some of the carved woodwork, to the new site. He was knighted for his conduct at the battle of the Spurs, in 1513, and accompanied his Sovereign to the Field of the Cloth of Gold. During his lifetime Henry VIII. was entertained at Compton Wynyates. His grandson, Henry, first Baron Compton, was visited by Queen Elizabeth in the same house; and dying, left a son William, about whom a well-known tale is told. He is said to have fallen in love with Elizabeth, the daughter of an exceedingly wealthy citizen, and former Lord Mayor of London, Sir John Spencer, who was, however, quite deaf to the appeals of the young couple. Love, as the poem would have us believe it always does, found out a way; for Lord Compton, under