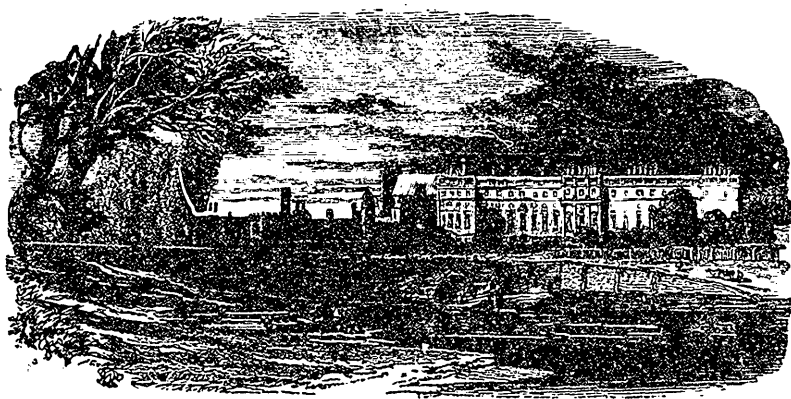


gorgeous pageantry only a shadowy memory remains. The colonnade of coupled Ionic pillars running across the middle quadrangle, as shown in the engraving on page 298, is a later addition by Sir Christopher Wren, and is quite out of keeping with its Gothic surroundings.

The great attraction of the palace now is its splendid gallery of over a thousand paintings, many of them by distinguished masters. Conspicuous among these are the famous historical portraits by Vandyck; and the court beauties, by Sir Godfrey Kneller and Sir Peter Lely. The portraits of these fair frail creatures, once the pride of courts and cynosure of every eye—all dead and turned to dust two hundred years ago—are suggestive of stern moralizings to an austere mind. We cast no stone. *Requiescant in pace.* We pass through guard chambers, presence



HAMPTON COURT—LOOKING UP THE THAMES.

chambers, royal closets and bedrooms, chapels and banquet halls—all lined with paintings of much historic or artistic interest. Here were preserved, till recently, the famous cartoons of Raphael, now in the Kensington Museum, which are so familiar from engravings. Originally prepared by the great painter, at the request of Leo X., as designs for tapestry, "they were slit into strips for the guidance of piecework for a Flemish loom; tossed, after the weavers had done with them, into a lumber room; then, after a century's neglect, disinterred by the taste of Rubens and Charles I., brought to England, the poor frayed and faded fragments glued together, and made the chief decoration of a royal palace." They are among the very finest work of Raphael.