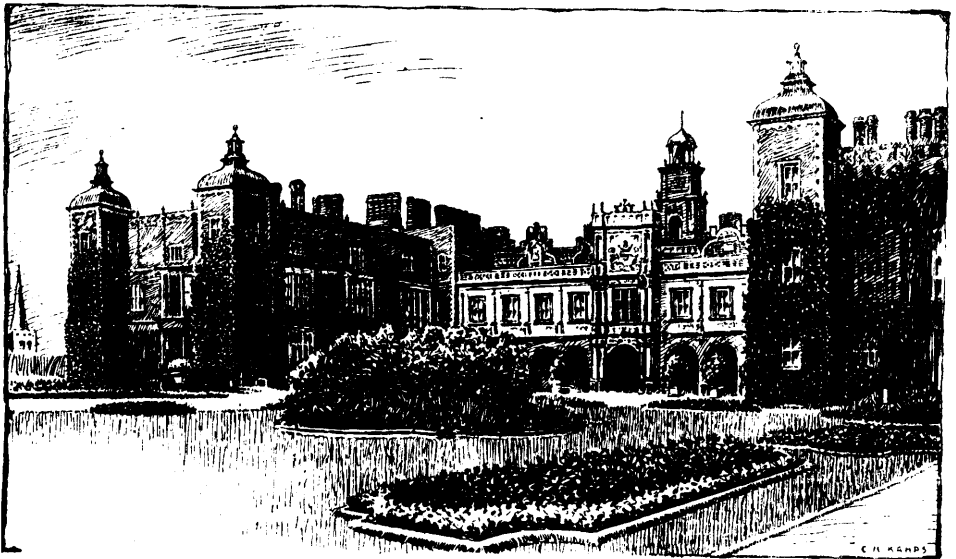


tone, but proving in logical and forcible terms that any treaty between Russia and the Porte affecting the treaties of 1856 and 1871 must be an European treaty." The negotiations that ensued ended in the Treaty of Berlin, the fleeting triumphs of which Lord Salisbury shared with his chief, Lord Beaconsfield. The blue ribbon of the Garter was bestowed upon each of them. But before Russia consented to a conference of the Powers there were anxious days, and Lord Augustus Loftus assures us that war was only staved off by "the extreme tact and spirit of conciliation

affairs have almost ceased to be food for party dissensions. This is hardly the place for a controversial disquisition. It is clear that Lord Salisbury's whole aim during his fourteen years as Foreign Minister has been to maintain peace with honour. He has gone far, too far, some think, on several occasions, to preserve it. He reads with singular insight the forces of the time and gauges the limitations of an English Minister. To secure both continuity and vigour of policy, when the reins pass from one Ministry to another, often involves serious sacrifices. It is



PEN AND INK DRAWING FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.

HATFIELD HOUSE.

evinced by Lord Salisbury in conjunction with the ability and adroitness of Count Schouvaloff."* The foreign policy of this period is indissolubly associated with the aims, real or ascribed, of Lord Beaconsfield, and upon them it is futile to look in our day for a temperate judgment. It is often said that when Lord Salisbury departed from the lines pursued by Beaconsfield and struck out for himself he found the true policy which has so commended itself to the English people that foreign

impossible, under the rule of a fickle, selfish and ill-informed democracy, to play the bold policy of Pitt or Palmerston. The day for that has gone forever. England won a great Empire by the courage and truculence of her adventurers, by waging long wars, by pouring out blood and treasure. To retain this Empire, as precious now for its commercial as its sentimental value, war must give place to patient negotiation, threat to skilful diplomacy. Of these arts Lord Salisbury, like his Elizabethan ancestor, s absolute master.

* Diplomatic Reminiscences of Lord A. Loftus, vol. ii., p. 251.