



and was held by the first peer of the realm next to the Shogun. The founder of the house was the son of Iyeyasu. The castle was built in 1610; the outer enceinte is very extensive, and is occupied by the garrison, but the central citadel and donjon keep are indeed a marvellous wooden pile, and a grand specimen of barbaric splendor.

"An outer moat, still full of water, surrounds the outer wall, formed of mighty cyclopean masonry, all the walls sloping and slightly curving outwards. Then there is a wide open space with gardens, orchards, and fields, and here are the extensive barracks and parade ground, where formerly were the quarters of the prince's samurai and the offices of the province. Within this is an inner moat, now dry and inhabited by a small herd of deer, and above it rises another cyclopean wall, surmounted by wooden battlements.

"The centre keep, a massive structure of five stories with stone walls, but within entirely wooden, is surrounded by a bewildering number of apartments, of one or two stories, of

which, alas! the furniture has all disappeared, though the exquisitely carved and gilded ceilings and the partitioned panels of each chamber are decorated with very fine paintings, as are the alcoves and the wooden doors between the different sets of apartments. Each room is generally devoted to a distinct subject painted in panels. Thus we have the history of the tiger in one room, in another of the leopard, in another pheasants, of which five different species are admirably depicted; deer, hawks, squirrels, woodpeckers, etc., etc., have all their separate apartments. Others are devoted to ancient Japanese life, civil and military. In one all their games are beautifully painted in a series of twelve; in another a painting of horse-racing occupies a whole side, and among the spectators stand two unmistakable Dutchmen. In another a tournament is depicted, where a Japanese lady is evidently the queen of beauty. Another, the richest apartment of the whole, the one kept for the use of the Shogun when he should visit the prince, is decorated with fancy Chinese scenery, while in