

the hill above a good sight of the entire building can be obtained ; and the view of its long array of tiled gables and mellow, red brick walls creates a strong desire to see something of the inside of so pleasing a specimen of Elizabethan architecture. All sorts of tenants have come and gone in the old house : for a time it was even a girls' school ; but the interior still preserves its original character. Oak stairways, quaint nooks, mysterious cupboards, and spacious chimney-corners speak of a time long before the young Wolfes played hide-and-seek among them. Panelled walls and huge oaken rafters have long slept under thick layers of paper or whitewash, and suggest infinite possibilities for the hand of some reverent restorer.

It was in the year of Wolfe's birth, 1727, that his father, Colonel Wolfe, settled at Westerham. The Colonel, who was then over forty, had recently married a well-born young lady of twenty-four, Miss Thompson of Marsden in Yorkshire. For a short time the newly-married pair occupied the vicarage, moving almost immediately after the birth of their eldest son, James, into the old gabled house at the foot of the hill, which for some twelve years remained their home. It would be more correct, perhaps, to say that it was Mrs. Wolfe's home, for the Colonel was still on the active list, and being a smart officer, could have spent but a small portion of his time at Westerham with his wife and children,—for a second son, Edward, was born to them within a year of their removal to Quebec House.

The Wolfes had no local ties with Kent. The Colonel seems to have been born in the north of England, and the selection of Westerham as a home was probably