
William Hodgson Ellis

also contains the tombs of the Vernon family, among them that of the well-known Dorothy Vernon, who is said to have eloped from Haddon Hall with the son of the Duke of Rutland, and has been made the subject of song and story. Haddon Hall stands, a splendid relic of the past, in the meadows three miles away from Bakewell. When my grandmother was young she was very fond of the beautiful old castle, and as she used to be given the keys and allowed to explore at her pleasure she knew every inch of it. On one occasion the young people of the neighbourhood were allowed to have a dance there, and they decorated the Long Gallery and lighted it with candles. In later life when my grandmother had been married for many years, and away from England for 15 years she revisited Haddon, and the same caretaker handed her the keys, saying, "You will like to have the keys, Miss Hodgson"!

A few miles from Bakewell in another direction lies Chatsworth, the famous seat of the Dukes of Devonshire. Hither came the young Queen Victoria with the Prince Consort, in the early years of her reign. Among other festivities there was a grand ball. My grandmother has often told me that her father and mother were invited to the ball, but she was too young to go, so she was allowed to look through a window. She was close to the Queen, who wore a pink satin dress. My grandmother always said that never had she seen any human being look so perfectly happy.

Mr. Joseph Paxton was landscape gardener at Chatsworth at that time. He designed the great greenhouses there, and afterwards designed the Crystal Palace, for which he was knighted.

It was a great source of pride to him that the morning after the ball at Chatsworth when the public had been allowed into the grounds, and a great display of fireworks had been given, the Duke of Wellington, who was a guest and had risen early on purpose to see the havoc they had