

SHAKESPEARE'S COUNTRY

hand to the moat, and on the other to the upper rooms. The drawing-room is panelled with oak, and has a restored plaster ceiling of the Elizabethan period. Over the mantel-piece is the Douglas crest, a wild boar in the cleft of an oak tree, bound with a chain and lock, and with the motto, "Lock Sicker." The bedchamber of Henry VIII. has some old glass, in which the Tudor rose is to be seen as well as the arms of Katharine of Aragon. The ceiling contains the arms of different monarchs who have visited the house. Near this is another room, from which a hiding-place above is reached by a narrow staircase, and there is a second secret chamber in the south-west turret. The council chamber in the Great Tower is panelled with split oak, and has, in an adjoining closet, a well hole, which probably led to another secret chamber. Three staircases lead from this room to the Priest's chamber in the roof, where the services of the Catholic Church were performed when proscribed by law. This room contains a most interesting relic in the shape of a shelf under the south-west window, on which are carved five crosses in the positions which they would occupy on an altar slab. This shelf cannot actually have been a consecrated altar, not being of stone, but it was doubtless the spot on which the portable altar-stone was laid during the celebration of Mass, and was consequently marked in this way. It is believed to be the only object of its kind in the country. This room also contains a carved door of Renaissance work and a recess behind