

CHAPTER XXII

NOTES ON LOWESTOFT

Heddingham. Conclusion

THE Lowestoft factory was founded about 1755, and in 1770 the proprietors were Robert Brown & Co. In 1790 Gifford, a water, in his *History of Lowestoft*, notes that:

"The only manufactory carried on at Lowestoft is that of making porcelain or china-ware, where the proprietors have brought this ingenious art to a great degree of perfection, and, from the prospect it affords, promises to be attended with much success."

Although a London warehouse was opened, early in the nineteenth century the manufacture was ended. The competition of the Staffordshire potteries was one cause of the failure, another was the losses of the company, especially at Rotterdam, where, when Napoleon captured the city, some thousands of pounds were lost by the destruction of Lowestoft china. So it is stated, and his enmity towards England, who made an abortive attempt, in 1799, to drive the French out of Holland, was shown in the Berlin Decrees, which were referred to in the introduction.

It was in 1802 that the Lowestoft factory was closed. All kinds of Oriental armorial porcelain, in addition to many unmarked pieces of other English china, have been ascribed to this factory, and "Chinese Lowestoft," whatever that may be, is a term often used. Most of the genuine specimens which I have seen were of coarse quality, painted with borders and flowers in blue and with names or initials. Some of it resembles blue and white Plymouth china in its decoration,