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THE STATELY HOMES OF ENGLAND.

III.

LOWTHER CASTLE.

IN one of the most lovely shires of England—Westmoreland—where

“ Hills on hills, on forests forests rise,
Spurn the low earth and mingle with the skies,”

stands Lowther Castle. The Lowther family is one of the most ancient in the kingdom, and some idea may be gained of its wealth and influential connections from the fact that the present Earl of Lonsdale and Baron Lowther is patron of no less than forty-three livings. That is, his lordship may “present,” which is practically to appoint, the clergyman in forty-three parishes, many of which give, from land tithes, very large stipends for very light duties. The parishioners have nothing to say at the selection of the religious instructor and guide. Only the sense of propriety of the patron, and his respect for public opinion, prevents the “presentation” of utterly incompetent or unworthy men. The time is not so long past when the hard-riding, fox-hunting, deep-drinking parson, in his scarlet coat, was a familiar figure at court-balls, races and “meets.” Thackeray tells of one

* *The Stately Homes of England.* By LLEWELLYNN JEWETT, F.S.A., and S. C. HALL, F.S.A. Two vols. in one; pp. 400 and 360, with 380 engravings. New York: R. Worthington. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price, \$8.