

## Auchinleck House

THE traveler who visits Affleck House (Ayrshire), or "Place Affleck" as Auchinleck House and grounds are called by the country people, by the ordinary route from Auchinleck Village, will probably find the Barony road to be long, wearisome and oppressive. Not that it is so really, the distance being little more than three miles, while the road itself is margined by rows of knotted and gnarled trees, and here and there bosky woods which give it the appearance of a pleasant avenue. The dreariness of the road arises from its running for about three-fourths of the way in a straight, undeviating level line—forming a perspective monotonous to the eye and of seemingly interminable length. In other words he can see too far before him. This we found to be our experience. But it is an untoward circumstance that cannot point a moral while it adorns a tale. So we found ourselves musing on the wisdom divine by which the future is veiled from our vision, when a far view of even the earthly path before us wearies the eye and depresses the mind. Extracting a ray of hope however from the homely proverb that "It's a lang lane that has nae turn" we trudge along noticing the aspiring village of Ochiltree away to the left. Passing Ochiltree road-head the path makes a somewhat abrupt turn to the right, and after one or two other windings, skirting a wood of stately trees and under a more graceful avenue, we enter the approach with its well kept borders of greensward and shrubbery, and emerge upon the lawn where, amid a scene of floral beauty and sylvan grandeur, stands the "mansion fine" of Auchinleck. It is a fine, neat, square-looking edifice of the Grec-