

Salisbury Hall.

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Salisbury Hall lies to the south-east of London Colney, adjacent to the main road from St. Albans to London *via* Barnet. It is a building of mediæval origin, surrounded by a moat which still exists, and has been known at various times as "Salsburies," "Salesbury," "Salisbury," and "Shenley Hall." The oldest parts of the present house date from the time of Henry VIII., having been erected by Sir John Cutts, Treasurer of England, who married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Brockett, lord of the manor of Symon's Hide and granddaughter of Sir Robert Lytton, of

Knebworth. From *c.* 1616 to 1653 the Hall was occupied by Richard Cole, armiger, who is buried, together with Dorothy his wife, in Shenley Church. After the battle of Worcester, in 1651, the fugitive Prince Charles found refuge in the Hall, according to legend, subsequently escaping to Hampshire and Sussex. William Cole succeeded as the tenant until 1668, when it was sold to a Mr. Hoare, who let the Hall to Sir Jeremy Snow, Kt. and Bart., by whom it was occupied until 1702. The latter added very largely to the mansion in 1690, and it is owing to him that it presents a characteristic Stuart appearance.

King Charles II. often visited Sir Jeremy, and, as boon companion, passed considerable time with him. The story is related that, having partaken rather too freely, the old Royalist slapped the King upon the back and invited him to have another bottle. The surprised but good-natured monarch assented, with the trite remark, "A beggar in his cups is as good as a king." Nell Gwynne was a constant visitor. After Sir Jeremy Snow's time, the Snell family occupied the Hall for many years, the last representative leaving it in 1819. Much was then demolished, the Crown Chamber and some parlours disappearing among other portions, and the building became a superior farmhouse. Mr. Joseph Ball, Mr. James Woods, and Mr. William Davenport, have successively occupied the Hall, and it is now in the possession of Mr. Herbert Smith, through whose kindness we have the pleasure of viewing it. In 1884 it was restored as we now see it—the Hall, Great Parlour, Dining Room, Drawing Room, with its Ante-room, and a few other apartments, being the same as when Sir Jeremy Snow lived at the Hall. The walls are of considerable thickness, and reputed to be honeycombed with secret passages. One nook in an upstairs passage, now a cupboard, is stated to have been the hiding-place of Charles, while a hidden chamber in one small bedroom leads up to a so-called priest's hole in the roof. In the entrance-hall are the famous medallions from Sopwell Nunnery, brought hither when that building became uninhabited in the time of Charles II. They have been variously ascribed to Thomas Wolvey, sculptor, who died in 1430,

and was buried in St. Michael's Church, and also to the sculptors of the high altar screen. Casts of these medallions are preserved in Mr. H. Hine's house in Holywell Hill, St. Albans. There were ten originally at Salisbury Hall, representing respectively Julius Cæsar, Augustus, Galba, Vespasian, Titus, Domitian, Trajan, Marcus Aurelius, and Constantine, with Cleopatra, Faustina, and Zenobia engraved on one; but the rebuilding has reduced the number to seven and a-half, half of one being embedded in a wall.