

## CHEQUERS, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

CHEQUERS is now the country home of British Prime Ministers. Such was the generous and patriotic resolve which, in the autumn of 1917, its then owners made irrevocable by legal document. Lord and Lady Lee of Fareham came to this most delightful Buckinghamshire seat some dozen years ago, and at once began conservative reparations. The principle on which they were broadly projected and admirably executed was to give back to the house, within and without, the full character and flavour of the times when it originated, while modern habits of life should find scope and gratification. Mainly built under Elizabeth, it had, as we know from family documents, escaped with scarce any alteration until, a hundred years ago, much money was spent in obliterating its history and its beauty under a pervading coat of mock mediæval frippery, so pleasing to its perpetrators that the unhappy place was described in 1823 as "lately fitted up in the Gothic style with exquisite taste." What this exquisite taste was like future ages may still learn through the medium of photography. Such presentment will have documentary value for a future history of the rise and fall of Art, but the relegation of the stuff itself to the rubbish heap is not likely ever to be regretted. It is well to preserve examples of every phase of architecture and decoration. There is always the best of a bad lot. Nor must we forget that man is habitually unappreciative and destructive of what the next preceding generation has done, although later on it may again be valued. The Strawberry Hill manner may, therefore, have future devotees, but they should have left for them complete



45.—THE NORTH AND EAST FRONTS.