

THE ROYAL RESIDENCES.



THE STately HOMES OF ENGLAND'S MONARCHS.

The upper picture shows Sandringham House with the new section at the north end, built by order of the late King. Sandringham, the home for thirty years of the late King Edward, is in every respect a model estate. It was purchased in 1891 by the then Prince of Wales from the Hon. Spencer Cowper. At that time the residence was the model type of old English country house, and occupied three sides of a square. It was pulled down and the present mansion erected on a new site. Over the entrance is a frieze with the words, "This house was built by Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, and Alexandra, his wife, in the year of our Lord, 1891." The picture in the middle shows Windsor, which is perhaps the most famous of the British Palaces. It is indistinctly associated with the history of the nation for many centuries. It may be said with certainty that no other Royal residence in the King's dominions, or probably even in all Europe, is so full of invaluable relics, historical and personal, as Windsor. The other state homes of the Sovereign consist of various very wonderful possessions, but Windsor is so richly more valuable and has been in almost continuous use, so that the building has been for priceless value to be had there. Balmoral, which in the bottom picture is seen in the sunny splendour of Dunsinane. In former times the castle belonged to the Fitzwarrens of Inverary, and passed through various hands until it became the property of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort. The present magnificent castle was built on the site of the old one.