

CHAPTER II

The Interior

Those living or staying in **Government House** are mostly concerned with the first floor. As on the other two floors, the shape of the rooms in the central block is roughly that of a capital I the upright being the pillared **Marble Hall** and the two horizontal bars were being the Breakfast or Small Dining Room on the North and the Throne Room on the South. The curved corridors to the wings lead out from the ends of these two rooms.

The Plan opposite will make the arrangement of the floor clear. In the North-West wing is the Prince of Wales' Suite so called since it was used by His Royal Highness Prince Edward of Wales when he visited Calcutta in December, 1921.

In the **North-East wing** is the **Council Chamber** where the Governor-General used to preside over the Executive, and also, later, the Legislative Council, now only used when the Governor presides over meetings too large to be held in his Study and for private cinema shows; a small drawing room which is used after lunch and small dinner parties; and a billiard room.

In the **South-East wing** are the Blue and Brown Drawing Rooms used after large dinner parties and for the reception by the Governor of notabilities on their arrival. When the Prince of Wales (afterwards King Edward VII) visited Calcutta in 1876 this wing was converted into a suite for him. In the South-West wing is the Governor's Study surrounded by rooms for his Personal Staff.

On the North-West staircase there are a few oil paintings of Lieutenant-Governors; viz., from the bottom upwards Sir Cecil Beadon, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor 1862-1867; J.A.Bourdillon, C.S.I., I.C.S., acting Lieutenant-Governor 1902-1903; Sir John Peter Grant, G.C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor 1859-1862 and Sir Charles Alfred Elliott, Lieutenant-Governor 1890-1895.

When the Viceroy left Bengal most of the pictures in Government House were taken away. There were, at the time, seventeen Government House pictures being renovated in England and the Government of Bengal decided to have reproductions made of eleven of them, viz., Marquis Wellesley, Marquis of Hastings, Earl Amherst, Lord Hardinge, Viscount Canning, Earl of Elgin, Lord Lawrence, Earl of Mayo and Marquis of Lansdowne who had all lived in Government House as Governors General; the Duke of Wellington on account of his profound influence on the events of his time in India; and, for no recorded reason, Jung Bahadur of Nepal. The copying was done by W.J.Morgan and each of the six full length pictures (The Duke of Wellington and Lords Wellesley, Hastings, Amherst, Canning and Mayo) cost Rs.2,500, while each of the five half length pictures (Jung Bahadur, and Lords Hardinge, Elgin, Lawrence and Lansdowne) cost Rs. 1,750, the total cost being Rs.23,750 for the eleven.

A suggestion was recorded that copies should also be made of the pictures of all the other Governors General who had occupied Government House, but the matter was lost sight of. The selection, therefore, of the pictures of former Governors General for Government House was determined by pure chance and they were not chosen for any reason other than that they happened to be in England and available for copying at a particular moment. The copies Morgan made were done either from originals or from copies of originals which had been made by G. F. Clarke. Clarke had been commissioned by the India Office in the time of Lord Northbrook (1872-1876) to make copies of missing pictures of Governors General from originals in England so that there might be a complete series in Government House. Lord Dalhousie (1848-1856) had first set the ball rolling and induced the Court of Directors to consent to send out missing pictures of Governors General. In the Breakfast Room are full length oil paintings of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. These are copies of the originals by Sir Luke Fildes and were sent out by the India Office.

Opposite the painting of King Edward VII is a full length painting of Earl Amherst, Governor General 1823-1828. It shows him in his Peer's Robes with knee-breeches and buckled shoes. The original picture was painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence, the picture which hangs in Government House to-day being a copy made by W. J. Morgan, R.B.A., in 1913, of a copy made by G. F. Clarke.

Lord Amherst was a great stickler for ceremonial and never moved from one room of Government House to another without a long train of mace-bearers preceding him; when riding on the Maidan with his wife it was a rule that she might never advance beyond his horse's quarters, but he entertained little and so was not liked much by the European community and as a Governor General he was not very distinguished and was very nearly recalled.

It was he who obtained sanction for the formation of a Band for the Governor General, regimental bands having, before then, been borrowed as occasion required. It was in his time that the First Burmese War was fought which, among other things, resulted in the acquisition of Assam. During this war there was a mutiny of three native regiments at Barrack pore owing to their repugnance to cross the seas and go to fight in Burma. Lord and Lady Amherst at the time were almost alone in Government House, Barrack pore, and would undoubtedly have been captured and held as, hostages by the mutineers had they known how unprotected they were. The mutiny was quelled by artillery brought from Dum-Dum and by English troops, the fight raging within a few hundred yards of Government House, some of the household servants being wounded by bullets. His eldest son, who was on his Staff, died of fever at Barrack pore at the age of 24 and is buried in the Station Cemetery.

Opposite the painting of Queen Alexandra is a full length portrait of Lord Amherst's predecessor, the Marquis of Hastings, Governor General 1813-1823, which is also a copy made by Morgan in 1913 of a copy made by John Hayes in Lord Canning's time (1857-1862) of the original painting by Samuel Lane in the Oriental Club, London. He is wearing a scarlet coat with black facings and cuffs slashed with gold – the same uniform that Lord Wellesley wears in his picture in the Brown Drawing Room, - white knee-breeches and the Star and Ribbon of the Garter while round his neck is the badge of the Order of the Bath.

Lord Hastings was a close personal friend of the Prince Regent on account of whose insistence he was made Governor General, the first Lord Minto being recalled to make room for him. He had held Cabinet rank in 1806 and insisted on being made Commander-in-Chief as well as Governor-General. His period of office is one of the most important in the history of British Rule for he rounded off the policy of Warren Hastings and Wellesley and by his campaigns against Nepal, the Marathas, and the Pindaric freebooters carried the spread of British Dominion over Northern and Central India to a stage which it was only left for Lord Dalhousie, a quarter of a century later, to complete. Simultaneously he resumed Wellesley's policy by extending British supremacy and protection over every available Native State. He unquestionably stands out as one of the foremost architects of the India we know to-day. It was he also, who by negotiating the purchase of Singapore, now of such vital strategic naval importance to the Empire, repaired the blunder of returning Java to the Dutch after it had been captured. In addition to these larger achievements he interested himself in the improvement and beautification of Calcutta, among other things building the Strand Road along the river bank with the proceeds of a great lottery.

His services to Calcutta are commemorated by the naming after him of more streets and so forth, than bear the name of any other Governor General. He was Baron Rawdon, Baron Hungerford and the Earl of Moira when he assumed office and his wife was the Countess of Loudoun in her own right. There are in Calcutta streets called Rawdon Street, Hungerford Street, Moira Street and Loudon Street in memory of him. Hastings Street had been named after Warren Hastings, but the colony of Hastings at the end of the Strand Road is named after Marquis Hastings (he received this title in 1818) as also is the Hastings Bridge over Tolly's Nullah which was erected by public subscription in his honor.

It may be mentioned, in passing, that the 165 feet high Ochterlony Monument on the Maidan is in honor of General Sir David Ochterlony who conducted the campaign against Nepal which ended victoriously in 1816 during the time of Hastings, and resulted in the acquisition of those parts of the Himalayas on which stand Nainital, Missouri and Simla.

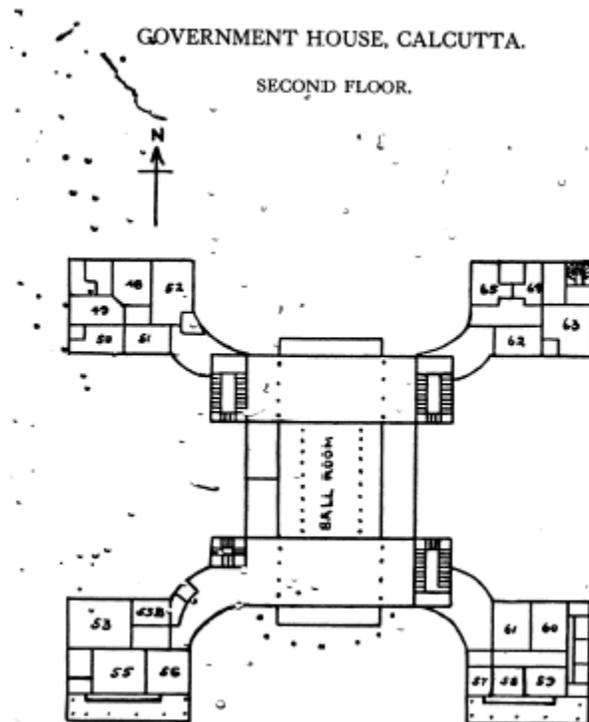
Lord Hastings also left his mark on his more immediate surroundings. He imported fine sparkling gravel from Bays water to lay on the paths of Government House and he enlarged and completed Government House, Barrack pore, leaving it as it stands to-day more than double the size that it was when he arrived.

The white marble basin and fountain in front of the southern face of the Barrack pore house was put there by him. It probably once belonged to the Great Moghul at Agra but Lord Hastings found it among a lot of lumber in the artillery yard at Agra in 1815 and sent it down to Calcutta.

He inaugurated an era of great formality and magnificence of Ceremonial and entertaining at Government House, insisting on all the appurtenances of Royal State and finally died so poor, owing to his lavish expenditure that his entire property had to be sold to pay his debts. After leaving India the state of his finances compelled him to accept the Governorship of Malta in 1824 and he died at sea in the Mediterranean in 1826. He was devoted to his family and when dying made the pathetic request that his right hand should be cut off and clasped in that of his wife when she should follow him. This was done.

On the North-East staircase are portraits of Sir Stanley Jackson, Governor 1927-1932, painted by B.L.Mukherjee in 1930; the Earl of Lytton, Governor 1922-1927 (who, according to Lord Curzon, was born in Government House during the Viceroyalty of his father [1876-1880]; actually, he was born at Simla on 9th August, 1876, but the first four years of his life were divided between Government House, Barrack pore and Simla, painted by Jacob Hood in 1926; Lady Elliott, wife of the Lieutenant-Governor whose picture is on the North-Western staircase; Lachmi Das Seth of Muttra (a picture presented by himself in 1894); and Sheik Karim Bakshi, Bara Khansamah 1848-1877. This striking picture was painted by a lady who was staying in Government House.

The Marble Hall consists of a central nave separated by pillars from side aisles on the model of a Roman atrium and has always been the State Dining Room, accommodating for this purpose about 100 persons but the table is usually prolonged into the Breakfast Room by which means another dozen guests can be accommodated. It is also used on the occasion of the arrival of a new Governor, the leading Provincial notabilities being ranged round it in chairs for the purpose of being introduced to the new Governor and of bidding farewell to the old. Persons of lesser consequence take their stand on the exterior Grand Staircase. During the period when Government House was the residence of Governors General and Viceroys, the Marble Hall was occasionally used when loyal or congratulatory addresses were presented and sometimes for sittings of the Governor General's Legislative Council when its proceedings were such as to attract a large gathering. Perhaps the most famous of such occasions was that when the Albert Bill which convulsed the European population of India during the Viceroyalty of Lord Ripon was discussed in January, 1884. Like the other State Rooms on this floor, it is paved with grey marble and lit with luster chandeliers. The coffered ceiling is gilded and painted white. When the house was first built the pillars were covered with the exquisite chunam, or plaster, said to have been made of burnt shells, for which India has long been famous, and which when polished took a surface like burnished ivory. In the passage of time the chunam decayed and the pillars were whitewashed, and in 1869 Lord Mayo on coming out as Viceroy found that they had actually been painted black. He got chunam workers up from Madras, which was then the home of the art, and renovated the whole of the pillars on this and the upper floor. At the same time the handsome teak doors throughout the building which had apparently been covered over with white paint since the beginning, of which they were found to be encrusted with innumerable layers, were scraped clean and polished and gilded as they have been ever since.



Lord Curzon in 1899 found that the chunam had perished, that big pieces had been chipped out and filled in with ordinary plaster that the surface had been defaced by constant rubbing and by many scratches and bruises and that the pillars would not stand the test of more than a cursory inspection. But he found that the art of chunam had so entirely decayed that only in Madras and Jaipur could any workmen be found who still practiced it. He sent for small parties of the best artificers from both places and set one party to work upon one set of pillars and the other upon another, watching their labors as they proceeded and intending to give the order to the winner of the competition. The result however was so thoroughly unsatisfactory, the new surface in both cases being gritty, dirty and destitute of the wonderful high polish of the old work, and withal so costly, the estimate for the pillars on the two floor being Rs.30,000 (£2,000 in those days) that he did not feel justified in pursuing the experiment and ordered the pillars to be enameled. With the passage of time and the accumulation of dirt the result proved disappointing. Another coat of chunam was applied to the pillars in 1920 but it was not comparable to the old cement and the pillars are now once more enameled in ivory color.

When the **Marble Hall** was first built the ceiling as well as that of the **Ball Room** above was painted on canvas by a local artist named Creuse whose bill for the decorations of Government House amounted to sicca rupees 69,000 or £8,625 (a sicca rupee was worth 2s. 6d. and was a coin of standard weight and fineness struck by the East India Company to facilitate accounts, there being several kinds of rupees of varying values in existence. The word sicca meant a die.)

The white ants, however, destroyed the canvas in a few years but it was renewed until Sir John Lawrence in 1865 substituted the present ceiling for it. The present designs in white and gold are believed to be the work of H.M.Locke, formerly principal of the Calcutta School of Art.

Along the East and West walls of the aisles of the Marble Hall are ranged the more than life-size marble busts of the Twelve Caesars, replicas of a series not infrequently met with in the adornment of palaces and princely mansions during the classical revival of the 18th century. A similar series exists in the basement hall at Kedleston, and Lord Curzon came to the conclusion that the architect of Government House in taking Kedleston as his model thought fit to reproduce the Twelve Caesars also. He dismissed the various legends attached to them, such as that they

were seized from a Dutch ship which was taking them for the adornment of the Dutch Government House in Java or that they were seized from a French ship which was taking them as a present from the French King to the Nizam of Hyderabad or from Napoleon to Tippu Sultan. Lord Curzon describes them as still reposing in his time upon the most hideous painted wooden pedestals, out of all proportion to the size of the busts. He procured examples of the best Indian marbles and had a new set of pedestals fashioned from the handsomest of them to what he describes as a superior scale and design.

There are spacious verandahs on each side of the **Marble Hall** which Lord Curzon says were not part of the original building but were added afterwards. He gives no authority for this statement and not only does their general structure not suggest that they are additions, but they are shown as existing in very early prints of Government House. The West one is used as a service pantry and in the East one the band plays. The south portion of the East verandah is screened off, and Lord Curzon says he found it a very cool and convenient lounge for coffee and cigarettes after lunch.

Leading from the South end of the Marble Halls is the Throne room which can be entirely screened off from it by long curtains. Up to the middle of the 19th century the Throne was placed, and Levees were held, in the Ball Room on the second storey and the present Throne Room was used for different purposes by different Governors General. Lord Wellesley, the builder of the house, used it once, for instance, for the Prize Giving of the students of the College of Fort William and when Lord Dalhousie came out as Governor General in 1848 he found that it was used as a dining room for small parties but as the Drawing Room was then, as it is now, in the South-East wing which meant that he had to walk through the Dining Room so as to get from his rooms in the South-West wing to the Drawing Room he turned the present Throne Room into a Drawing Room with red damask furniture, the Drawing Room in the South-East wing being turned into a sitting room for Lady Dalhousie. It is interesting to note that his cost Rs. 34,800. In the time of Lord Canning (1856-1862) who succeeded Lord Dalhousie it was still used as a Drawing Room, but Lady Canning disliked it because people always had to be passing through it on their way between the South-West wing and the rest of the house.

It was however not converted into the Throne Room till after her time either by Lord Elgin (1862-1863) or Sir John (afterwards Lord) Lawrence (**1864-1869**), most probably the latter as it will be remembered that it was he who re-ceilinged this floor and so is known to have taken an interest in the house.

In Lord Curzon's time (**1899-1905**) it was used, as it is used now, primarily as the Throne Room where Princes were received, Addresses were presented, Levees and Drawing Rooms were held and where guests assembled in order to be presented before large banquets. He also used it for Durbars, which are now held under a shamiana a hundred feet square erected in the grounds, and surprisingly he reverted to the practice previously found so inconvenient of using it as the Dining Room on all occasions when the party was not more than fifty in number. King George V held a Levee, and Investiture and a Court in this room in 1911, and the Prince of Wales a Levee in 1921.

When Lord Curzon arrived he found, and removed, one incongruity from this room - a billiard table at the West end which he sent to Barrack pore. He also found the room carpeted but discovering that there was the same beautiful polished marble flooring underneath as there was in the Marble Hall he removed the carpet and the floor remained bare during his time instead of one of the Silver State Chairs. It was supposed to have been the Throne of Tippu Sultan and to have been brought by Lord Wellesley to Calcutta.

At the West end of the Throne Room is a red lacquer taktaposh – or ceremonial seat – which belonged to Theebaw the last King of Burma, and was taken from the Palace at Mandalay in the Third Burmese War of 1885. Legs have been added so as to turn it into a table. In its original state it would have only been a few inches from the floor.

The walls of the **Throne Room** were for the first time hung with silk by Lord Litton (1876-1880) who imported a blue damask from Paris for the purpose; they were re-hung by Lord Lansdowne (1888-1894) with green silk and by Lord Curzon with rose silk and were again re-hung in 1918 when Lord Ronald shay was Governor of Bengal and in 1928 when Sir Stanley Jackson was Governor.

Under the Throne canopy is a four-legged sofa with silver lion arms which was brought from Belvedere and is said to have belonged to Warren Hastings (1772-1785).

The semi circular verandah behind the Throne was originally paved with Chunar stone, but Lord Ripon (1880-1884) changed this for marble. Lord Curzon used to dine on this verandah occasionally on hot nights in March and in Lord Wellesley's time (long before there were any trees round Government House) his guests used to assemble there to see the fireworks on the Esplanade.

In the Throne Room there is a small, rather low, gilded seat of Oriental pattern, with cushions of crimson velvet and a small footstool of similar design. This, on ordinary occasions, stood under the canopy and the Viceroy often used it on formal occasions on after the Mysore Campaign. But Lord Curzon knew the tradition that Tippu's Throne was adorned or supported by great gold tigers' heads (Tippu was known as Tiger of Mysore), and he had seen in the Royal collection at Windsor one of these tigers' heads together with other emblems said to belong to it. He also noticed that the chair in the Throne Room contained large brass rings fixed to the base which showed that it had once been strapped or attached to something else. His researches into old records proved conclusively that it is not Tippu's State Throne. Lord Wellesley himself, when on 20th January, 1800, he wrote to the Court of Directors of the Honorable East India Company describing the objects captured at Seringapatam which he was sending home to the King, said "The golden tiger's head (which formed the footstool of Tippu Sultan's throne) I hope will be placed in St. George's Hall in Windsor Castle, as a noble trophy of the triumph of the British Arms in the East. It would have given me pleasure to have been able to send the whole throne entire to England, but the indiscreet zeal of the prize agents of the army had broken that proud monument of the Sultan's arrogance into fragments before I had been apprised even of the existence of any such trophy".

There was an editorial note to this dispatch saying that the tiger's head and the bird of royalty which stood on the top of Tippu's throne were then (1846) preserved at Windsor and were frequently placed on the Royal table on occasions of State during the reign of William IV.

In the illustration of the King's gold plate brought from Windsor to Buckingham place for display on the occasion of the State Banquet in connection with the Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1935, the gold tiger's head is very prominent. It is mounted on what appears to be an ebony plinth with a gold plate on which is a long inscription.

In 1840, Lord Wellesley when he was 80 years of age wrote a full description of the throne as follows: - "The Throne of the Sultan of Mysore was of an octangular form, the canopy being in the form of an umbrella; it was surmounted by a representation of the Garuda (or species of eagle) which is now deposited in Windsor Castle; the figure of the bird is composed of pure plates of gold closely inlaid with precious stones with a collar of pearl, and pearls at the eyes and suspended from the beak, and the tail spread and ornamented with pearl; it was supported by eight pillars the capitals of which were in the form of the head of a royal tiger, enriched with precious stones; the whole was covered with plates of pure gold; the octangular pavilion rested on the back of a royal tiger couchant; this figure also was covered with plates of pure gold, and the eyes, tusks, and claws were of rock crystal; the head and paws of the figure are in Windsor Castle; the head is covered with inscriptions in the Persian character."

There is an illustration of the original Throne in the **Victoria Memorial Hall** collection in Calcutta and it is clear that the seat in Government House, though it may have belonged to Tippu Sultan, was not this Throne. Lord Curzon concluded that it must have been a seat used by Tippu

on elephant back on other occasions or that it was made to be lifted on staves.

The saddest ceremony the Throne Room can ever have witnessed was when on the 18th February, 1872, the body of Lord Mayo, who had been stabbed on death by a Pathan convict at Port Blair in the Andaman Islands, was brought to Calcutta and for two days lay in State in the Throne Room while crowds passed before it. The coffin was then carried down the Marble Hall to the Grand Staircase where an impressive funeral service was performed by the Bishop of Calcutta before a vast crowd after which it was conveyed to Ireland in a Man-of-War for interment. There is an oil painting showing the lying-in-state at the foot of the South-East staircase.

The only pictures now in the Throne Room are full Length State Portraits of the reigning Monarch and his Consort which hang on either side of the Throne.

This completes the detailed survey of the main central block on the first floor. Brief mentions has been made of the rooms in the four wings and before preceding to the other floors it would be convenient to dispose in detail of such of these as possess points of particular interest.

Historically the most important and interesting next to the private study in the South-West wing, is the Council Chamber in the North-East wing.

For more than a century the Executive "Council of the Governor General met here, the room being designed for the purpose and if the walls could speak they would indeed have a tale to tell." What is now used as a Drawing Room used to be a waiting room where the Secretaries to Government sat till they were summoned into the Council Chamber?

The Council Chamber was quite adequate for meetings of the executive Council at which there were never more than ten persons in the room at the same time, but it was barely large enough for the Governor General's Legislative Council (brought into existence in 1861 after the Crown had assumed the Government of India) consisting of twenty members, and for reporters and public as well. The reporters and the public were accommodated on chairs at the North end of the Chamber or wherever space could be found, but there was no room for more than a sprinkling and whenever a large gathering was expected the Council met in the Throne Room or the Marble Hall. Conditions were greatly aggravated when by the Indian Councils Act of 1909 (commonly known as the Morley-Minto Reforms) the Governor General's Legislative Council was increased in number to over sixty and as a partial solution a gallery for reporters was constructed at the North end of the Chamber.

Apart from this gallery the Council Chamber has changed less than any other room in Government House since 1803, and Lord Curzon says that except for ordinary repairs and furnishings he could not find that any money had been spent upon it.

It was in this Chamber that the incoming Viceroy was sworn in, but it is no longer used for swearing-in: The incoming Governor now takes the oath in the Throne Room.

On the occasion of meetings of the Executive or the Legislative Council the members assembled in the curved corridor before the arrival of the Governor General, "who, after shaking hands with each, entered the Chamber and took his seat at the South end at the head of the table?". In those days the famous picture of Warren Hastings, a copy of which now hangs on the South-East staircase, always hung on the South wall behind the Viceroy. There were also oil paintings of several other Governors General but these, or copies of them have all been removed to the South-East staircase and the Drawing Rooms in the South-east wing or to Delhi and the walls of the Council Chamber to-day are entirely bare.

In the curved corridor there is a collection of old prints of Government House and there are more in the small Drawing Room in this wing. On the walls of the Drawing Room are displayed some pieces of old Worcester china with the arms of the East India Company on them. These

were rescued from obscurity by Lord Elgin (1894-1899) fortunately before what are the last remnants of a magnificent dinner service no doubt in daily use in Government House many years ago had disappeared entirely. He hung them on the walls of what is now the Brown Drawing Room from where they were transferred to the glass-fronted cupboards in the South-West corridor. They could not be seen very well there so Sir John Anderson had some of the pieces hung in the small Drawing Room.

The arrangement of the rooms on both floors of the North-West wing dates from Lord Curzon's time and these rooms are the principal guest chambers. When he as Viceroy he found them so badly arranged with an immense amount of space sacrificed to one or two rooms of unnecessary size while the remainder was divided up with wooden partitions into old fashioned bathrooms and sweepers' staircases that he drew plans for the reconstruction of the two floors which added considerably both to the accommodation and to the convenience. The suite on the first floor has been known as the Prince of Wales' Suite since it was occupied by Edward Prince of Wales, in 1921.

The South-West wing of the house was for over a century devoted to the official and domestic use of the Governor General and the Governors of Bengal have used it in the same manner. Occasionally, however, it was surrendered to illustrious visitors as it was to George V and Queen Mary when they stayed in Government House as Prince and Princess of Wales in 1905-1906 and again as King and Queen in 1911. The large room looking on to the garden has always been the study of Governors General and Governors except for a short time when Lord Mayo (1869-1872) changed rooms with his Private Secretary, as he preferred to work in the smaller but cooler apartment adjoining which has a Northerly outlook.

Lord Ripon (1880-1884) had an iron spiral staircase made so that he could slip out unobserved from the verandah of the Study to the garden. This was blocked up in Sir Stanley Jackson's time (1927-1932) and was removed entirely in 1932.

In the words of Lord Curzon this room has probably witnessed Discussions as agitated and decisions as heavily charged with fate as any private apartment in the wide circumference of the British Empire. Here Wellesley must have dictated many a haughty reply to the exasperating censures of the Directors in London; here Lord William Bentinck threshed out with Macaulay the new scheme of Western Education which has revolutionized India and has had more momentous consequences than any decision of Indian policy during the past century; here Lord Auckland bent his head over the agonizing news from Kabul (vide page 74); here Lord Dalhousie penned those masterly minutes which have been the model and the despair of his successors; here Canning sat surrounded by piles of boxes which he was too unbusiness like to open, declining to believe in the Mutiny until the storm was upon him or to disband his own bodyguard though the danger was at his gates, but inflexible in his policy of mercy, while almost within hearing excited crowds of his fellow countrymen in the Town Hall were clamoring for his recall; here John Lawrence worked in a costume as untidy as when he was a Deputy Commissioner on the frontier; here Lord Dufferin turned his polished phrases; and here Lords Lansdowne and Roberts planned the strategy of another Afghan Campaign.

As to the amount of hard work done in this room, Lord Curzon makes the interesting statement that though he was seldom in his chair before 10 a.m., once there he rarely left it, with the exception of an hour or two for meals, or a public function or a private drive, until 2 a.m. the following morning, or sometimes later.

In the Viceroys' days the room to the North of the Study was occupied by the Private Secretary, the Assistant Private Secretary and a typist and it was only in the time of Lord Lytton (1876-1880) that his Private Secretary (Sir George Colley who was afterwards killed at Majuba) had the wooden partition erected to give the Private Secretary more privacy.

The room for the A.D.C. in-waiting and visitors was the room to the East of the Study. When

the Governor of Bengal entered into occupation of Government House in 1912, the Assistant Private Secretary's room was used for the A.D.C. in-waiting and the old A.D.C.'s room for the stenographer-typist.

The curved corridor leading to this wing seldom sees people who are not on business bound, but occasionally when a sit down supper is not provided at the Government House Hall it is transformed into a private buffet for the Governor and guests of high rank and for a few hours its sterner associations are forgotten.

The upper floor of the South-West wing used to contain merely Bedrooms for the Viceroy and his family, but Lord Curzon turned one of them into a sitting room for Lady Curzon to save her what he calls the "ten league march" to the South-East wing and this sitting room was occupied by queen Mary in 1911 as it had been in 1905-1906 when as Princess of Wales she stayed in Government House.

It was Lord Curzon also who had the electric lift installed in this wing for which all subsequent occupants must be grateful to him and it was in his time that electric lights and fans were introduced into government House. He gives some interesting facts about the progressive modernization of the interior of the house in 1863, gas was laid on; in 1872, electric bells were installed; in 1882, a hot and cold water system was put in; in 1899, electric lights; in 1900, electric fans (though Lord Curzon left the hand pulled punkhas in the Marble Hall and the Reception Rooms preferring their measured sweep to what he called the hideous anachronism of the revolving blades); and in 1905, modern fixed baths replaced the queer-shaped old green painted wooden tubs which however, are still in use at Barrack pore and in the European servants' quarters on the ground floor of the South-West wing.

The raised covered pathway on the first floor level on the West side of the house, enabling guests to get from the Prince of Wales Suite to the lift without going through the rooms in the main block, was constructed in 1923 for the convenience of Lady Reading when she was staying in Government House as the guest of Lord Litton.

The South-East wing has always contained guest rooms on the second floor and drawing rooms on the first floor except when this floor of the wing was converted into a suite for Edward, Prince of Wales, when he stayed in Government House in 1876. His visit evolved a passionate outburst of loyalty never before known in the annals of British India, the feudatory chiefs and ruling houses feeling for the first time that they were incorporated in the Empire of an ancient and splendid dynasty.

The arrangement of the rooms has, however, undergone many changes and at present is very different from what it was even in Lord Curzon's time. He talks of the central room of the suite being known for many years as the Pink Drawing Room owing to the color of the wash upon the walls, and mentions that the ceilings were simply distempered in white. He says that he made considerable alterations, sweeping away the nest of little rooms which had been constructed when the floor had been used for sleeping purposes and providing out of the available space with little structural alteration a billiard room, an ante-room and a room in which the Band could play after dinner while leaving the main Drawing Room in the center untouched.

Now-a-days there are merely two rooms, a large Drawing Room at the end of the curved corridor, stretching across the whole width of the wing, called the Green Drawing Room in lord Lytton's time (1922-1927), but now called the Brown Drawing Room and a smaller one to the North of it called the Blue Drawing Room. The Band plays in the wide verandah to the South of the Brown Drawing Room. It is probable that the billiard and anti-rooms which he made were in what is now the Blue Drawing Room.

The Governor receives distinguished visitors in the Blue Drawing Room and it is also used, together with the Brown Drawing Room, for the entertainment of guests after large parties, the

Governor sitting in the Brown Drawing Room. The cheval glass in a lacquer frame which is in this corridor was taken from King Theebaw's Palace in the Third Burmese War and the prism chandelier is the only one remaining of the original chandeliers bought by Lord Wellesley at the sale of General Claude Martin's effects. There is a pair to the cheval glass in the same wing on the second floor.

The ceiling of the Brown Drawing Room is paneled and raftered in teak and on the walls there are only two pictures, one of Sir Arthur Wellesley (afterwards the Duke of Wellington) which is a copy made in 1913 by W. J. Morgan of the original by Robert Home in 1804 and the other of his elder brother, Marquis Wellesley, the builder of Government House, also a copy by W. J. Morgan of an original by Home. The Duke of Wellington is dressed in a scarlet military coat and white breeches and wears the Star of the Order of the Bath on his breast. His brother, Lord Wellesley, is dressed in a scarlet coat with black cuffs and facings slashed with gold and wear the Ribbon and Star of St. Patrick. Below this is a jeweled star in the center of which is a crescent and star. This is the star which was presented to him by the Court of Directors. It was made from some of Tippu Sultan's jewels and was given to him in recognition of his selflessness in declining to take his £100,000 share of the prize money which was distributed among the army after the fall of Seringapatam in 1799.

There are two pictures in the Blue Drawing Room one of Marquis Wellesley which is a fanciful copy of the picture in the Brown Drawing Room. The background is much the same but the pose and the dress are different. It was bought by Lord Lytton, Governor of Bengal, for £200 from Francis Edward of Marylebone. The other picture is that of the Taj Mahal at Agra by Hodges.

There are several paintings on the walls of the South-East staircase. At the top is a Morgan copy of a picture by F. Hall, R.A., of Lord Lansdowne, Viceroy, 1888-1894, in academic robes whose Viceroyalty was marked, among many other things, by the measures taken in conjunction with Lord Roberts, the Commander-in-Chief, to strengthen the defenses of the North-West Frontier in the course of which the Durand Line was drawn, placing Chitral within the sphere of British influence and by the organization of Imperial Service Troops in the Native States. Tremendous strides were made in the development of Burma during his period of office, the whole of which had come under British rule a few years before, after the Third Burmese War of 1885.

Before coming to India he had been Under Secretary of State for War from 1872 to 1874, and for India in 1880, and Governor General of Canada from 1883-1885. After leaving India he was Secretary of State for War from 1895-1900 and for Foreign Affairs from 1900-1905. He was also in the War Cabinet without portfolio in 1915-1916 and died in 1927.

Prince Albert, who died in 1892, eldest son of Edward VII, then Prince of Wales visited India in 1890 during Lord Lansdowne's time and is sure to have stayed in Government House.

On the half-landing below is a picture of John Zephaniah Holwell, directing the building of the Holwell monument to commemorate the Black Hole sufferers. In his hand can be seen the plan of the monument and in the background the scaffolding and the workmen engaged on its erection. This portrait is a copy of an original attributed to Zoffany. The original was bought in 1892 by Lord Lansdowne from Holwell's descendants in Canada to whom it had come down from Holwell's himself and is now in the Victoria Memorial, Calcutta, Holwell, who was originally a Surgeon in the Company's service and only entered the Civil Service in 1751, was one of the 23 prisoners in the Black Hole who survived out of 146 who were confined in a cell measuring 14 feet 10 inches by 18 feet from 7 p.m. on 20th June, 1756, till 6 a.m. the following morning by Siraj-ud-Dowlah, Viceroy of Bengal, after he had captured Fort William. The Fort William of those days occupied the space on which the General Post Office, the Customs House and the East Indian Railway Offices now stand and stretched westwards to the banks of the Hooghly. When Governor Drake disgracefully abandoned his trust and left the Fort on the 19th June dropping downstream with all available ships, Holwell took command but the odds were too great for him. Later in 1758, Holwell was appointed a Member of Council and acted as Governor of Bengal in 1760 when Clive relinquished

office.

Next below Governor Holwell's picture is a Morgan copy of a picture by C.A. Mornewick of Lord Canning, Governor General, 1856-1862, of whose mention has been made in describing the Study in the South-West wing. He is wearing the Ribbon and Star of the Order of the Star of India which was created in 1861, so that he was the first Grand Master. It was during his term of office that the Government of India was transferred from the East India Company to the Crown by a Proclamation on 1st November, 1858, Lord Canning in consequence becoming the first Viceroy. The Proclamation announcing the assumption by the Queen of the title of Empress of India, which is celebrated every year on the 1st January at a Proclamation parade, was not made till 1st January, 1877.

It is his wife's tomb which is in the grounds of Barrack pore and there is also a beautiful cenotaph to her in the north verandah of St. John's Church. This cenotaph was originally erected over the grave in Barrack pore Park, but it was found that the weather was spoiling it so it was removed, first to the Calcutta Cathedral and afterwards to St. John's Church, a simpler reproduction being placed over the grave. Lady Canning caught malaria in the Terai while stopping to sketch some scenery when returning from a visit to Darjeeling and died in Government House in 1861.

There is a status of Lord Canning by T. Brock, R.A and J.H. Foley, R.A, to the South-West of Government House.

On the landing outside the Throne Room is a Morgan copy of a portrait painted by T. Brigstocke in 1858 of Sir Jung Bahadur of Nepal, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., who rendered invaluable assistance at the head of his gallant Gurkhas in quelling the Indian Mutiny, and one of Lord Harding's (1844-1848) a copy by W.J. Morgan of a copy of G.F. Clarke of the original by Sir Fraser Grant, P.R.A., which is in the National Portrait Gallery, London. He is wearing the Star of the Order of the Bath. Sir Henry Hardinge, as he was when he assumed office, was the brother-in-law of his predecessor, Lord Ellenborough, and is the grandfather of Lord Hardinge of Penshurst who was Viceroy from 1910-1916 and in whose time the capital was changed from Calcutta to Delhi. He was the first Governor General to come to India by the overland route, i.e. by sailing to Egypt, crossing by land to Suez and resuming the journey by sea from there which halved the amount of time required for the passage to India. He was professional soldier as well as a politician and not only had served throughout the Peninsular War, but had lost a hand at Ligny. He had been Secretary of State for War in 1828-1830 and again in 1841-1844 and after his return from India was Commander-in-Chief in England from 1852-1856. He spent the greater part of his time in India in the field engaged in the First Sikh War and the large brass cannon in the centre plot outside the South entrance to Government House known as Futtah Jung which was captured at Aliwal was placed there by him.

There is an equestrian statue of him by J. H. Foley, R.A., to the South-East of Government House.

On the half landing below is a portrait of the famous Warren Hastings (1772-1785), the first Governor General, and in the opinion of many the greatest of all and the Governor General who held office for a longer period than any of his successors, never leaving Bengal for 13 years. His life and fortunes are too well known to need any biographical details here including his duel in 1780 with Philip Francis, a Member of his Council, the memory of which is preserved to this day by Duel Avenue close to Belvedere (now called Viceroy's House) to which house Francis who was wounded in the duel was taken. It was to him that the silver sofa under the canopy in the Throne Room belonged. The picture is a copy by Miss J. Hawkins after the original by A.W. Devis which is now at New Delhi and was brought from Barrack pore in 1912. The original hung in the Council Chamber in Government House from the time the house was built until the Viceroy moved to Delhi with an interval of 20 years which is accounted for as follows. In 1885 it was sent to England to be cleaned, but the Secretary of State kept it and deposited it in the National Portrait Gallery sending

a copy (the one which now hangs on the South-East staircase) in its place in 1887. Lord Curzon agitated for and succeeded in obtaining the return of the original in 1905. At the same time he procured a fresh copy of it by Sephton for the Victoria Memorial Hall which, after he had left, was in error presented to the Calcutta Corporation who refused to give it up and hung it in the Town Hall.

In the background is depicted a marble bust of Warren Hastings' great predecessor, Robert Clive, in a circular frame, but in the copy this has faded out and only with difficulty can even the circular frame be distinguished.

Below Warren Hastings hangs a picture of the Earl of Elgin (1862-1863). This is a Morgan copy of a Clarke copy of the original by Sir F. Grant, P.R.A. It was Lord Elgin who finished off the dome of Government House by adding the coronal and gallery at the summit. He had been Governor of Jamaica in 1842, Governor General of Canada 1846-1854 and held Cabinet rank as Postmaster General in 1859. He died of heart failure at Dharmasala where he lies buried in November, 1863, while on his way from Simla to Calcutta being one of the three Governors General who have died in India-Cornwallis, Elgin and Mayo.

The picture shows him wearing Levee dress with Stars of the Thistle and the Bath, the China War Medal and the Ribbon of Bath.

The next picture is that of Lord Lawrence (1864-1869), Lord Elgin's successor, a Morgan copy of the original by Val Prinsep, R.A. The Viceroy is always ex-officio head of the India Civil Service, but Sir John Lawrence, "Savior of the Punjab," as he was when he was made Viceroy, is the only member of the Indian Civil Service to have passed through every stage of Indian Service from Assistant Magistrate to Viceroy the highest office under the Crown, although a number of Civil Servants acted as Governors General and one, Sir George Barlow (1805-1807), was a substantive Governor General. The picture, painted some time after he had returned to England, shows him with a beard which he never wore in India: what he looked like when he was Viceroy may be seen from the statue of him by T. Woolner, R.A., which faces the South Gate of Government House. It will be remembered that it was he who put the coffered ceilings in the marble Hall and adjoining rooms and it was he who first established as a matter of routine the moving of the Government of India to Simla during the summer months. When he lived in Government House his main recreation was croquet which he used to play, to the interested delight of a large crowd of spectators in the street, often continuing by lamp-light after darkness had fallen. He was an unsociable but deeply religious man who inaugurated an era of simplicity and economy in the Vice regal household, hated dinners and parties and official civilities, reduced the staff, declined to encourage racing and refused to give the Viceroy's Cup and instituted Family Prayers in Government House. He used to walk off quietly to Church, St. Andrew's or St. John's and liked rambling on foot in the bazaars.

His homely ways caused a good deal of offence particularly his habit of working with his coat, waistcoat and collar off a slippers on his feet, but he was a great man and is fittingly buried in Westminster Abbey.

It was during his time that the War with Bhutan took place in 1864 which resulted in the acquisition of the Western Dooars of Jalpaiguri District then mainly jungle but now a great tea-growing area, and also the great Orissa famine of 1866 which together with famines in Upper India in 1868 led Lord Lawrence to establish the Irrigation Department.

The picture shows him in Levee dress with the Ribbon of the Star of India and the Stars of the Bath and the Star of India on his breast.

On the ground floor is a picture of Lord Lawrence's Successor, the Earl of Mayo (1869-1872), a Morgan-cum-Clarke copy.

The picture shows him dressed in a red coat and black trousers with the mantle of the Star of India and on his breast the Star of St. Patrick. In the background is a view of the South front of

Government House seen through the South-East Gate.

Lord Mayo, as has already been related, was killed by a Patha convict in the Andaman's and lay in State in the Throne Room. Next to his portrait is a picture by A.E. Caddy of the lying-in-state. The coffin is placed on the dais of the Throne and is covered with the Union Jack and the mantle of the Grand master of the Order of the Star of India. Round the coffin on the lower step are six tall candles. One end of the coffin is turned towards the spectator and upon it is a large silver shield on which are engraved his name and titles and there are some wreaths on the steps round the coffin. The mourners are major the Hon'ble E.R. Bourke and two of Lord Mayo's children on the left and Lady Mayo with and A.D.C. in attendance on the right.

It was he, as has also been related, who found the pillars in the marble Hall painted black and all the teak doors painted white and who had all the pillars re-chunamed and removed the paint from the doors and who preferred the private Secretary's room to the Viceroy's Study.

During his Viceroyalty the first visit to India was paid by a member of Royal Family, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh coming out in 1870-1871 and starting the tone of personal loyalty in Britain's relations with the feudatory princes. Lord Mayo created the Agricultural Department and developed the material resources of the country by an immense extension of roads, railways and canals. He was a man of tremendous vigor, both mental and physical, whose untimely death was a great loss to India. The West window in Calcutta Cathedral, designed by Sir E Burne Jones is in his memory.

Except for a copy in the North Ball Room of a picture by Von Angeli of Queen Victoria as a young woman these are all the paintings of any interest that remain in Government House to-day.

Being now on the Ground Floor it will be convenient to describe this before finishing off with a description of the second storey. There have been a great many changes in the arrangement of the rooms, but the history of these is not important, as they are almost entirely devoted to household and administrative purposes.

The plan opposite shows the arrangement of the floor as it is to-day. All visitors to Government House have some knowledge of it since they use either the Public or the Private Entrance on this floor for getting in and out of the house. For ordinary dinner parties up to a hundred guests or so the Public Entrée guests are received by an A.D.C. in the North Hall and then pass, through the Central hall, which was paved with grey marble by Lord Curzon, and up the South-east staircase to the Throne Room, while the Private Entrée guests are similarly received in the South hall and then go up to the Throne Room by the South-East staircase. On these occasions the four cloakrooms are adequate for the hats and coats of the guests, but on the occasion of balls, when 1,800 guests are entertained, the whole of the Central hall is barricaded off and turned into an auxiliary cloak room, the Public Entrée guests mounting to the Ball Room by the North-East and North-West staircases, while the Private Entrée guests use the South-East staircase.

The South end of the Central Hall is ornamented by a very fine Double gate of pierced wood work in front of which stands a sentry of the Body Guard and there are four large marble urns in it which from their general style seem likely to have been part of the original ornamentation of the interior just as the twelve Caesars in the Marble Hall were. There is however a tradition that they were a present from the Maharaja of Jaipur but it has not been found possible to verify this. The history of the gates and when they were put in their present position is not known but it seems clear that they were not made for Government House as they are too big for the central arch which they entirely fill, leaving no room for jambs and hinges. What is certain is that they are not famous Gates of Somnath which Lord Ellenborough had taken from the tomb of Mahmud of Ghazni after the First Afghan War in 1842 and paraded through northern India because these are still in the Museum of the Fort at Agra.

The North-West wing is entirely occupied by the Military Secretary's Department, its old home, though in Lord Curzon's time it had been shifted to the South-East wing. The North-East wing contains, as it always has done, the A.D.C.'s room and there used to be a billiard table in the room (now used as the library) to the east of it, but in 1932 Sir John Anderson had this brought up and installed on the floor above and at the same time he had the old Secretaries' waiting room next to the Council Chamber turned into a small drawing room, thus providing a convenient suite close to the room where all ordinary meals are served. There is also a small dining room in this wing, a large bedroom and a stone spiral staircase leading to the roof.

In the North Hall is a marble statue of Colonel Lord William de la Poer Beresford, V.C., K.C.I.E., 9th Lancers, who was on the personal staff at Government House for nineteen years from 1875 to 1894. For the first six years he was A.D.C. to Lords Northbrook, Lytton and Ripon. In 1881 Lord Ripon made him his Military Secretary, a post which he held for thirteen years under Lords Ripon, Dufferin and Lansdowne. He was the third son of the fourth Marquis of Waterford and died in 1900 at the early age of 53. He was a great sporting man and his race horse, Myall Kind, which won the Viceroy's Cup three times, the Governor's Cup and many other races, is buried to the East of Government House, Barrack pore. He won his V.C. at the battle of Lundy in the Zulu War.

In the South-East wing are sleeping quarters for the A.D.C.'s and in the South-West wing a number of bedrooms for European servants.

At the foot of the North-West and South-East staircases, respectively, there is a large Burmese gong slung from a pole supported by two carved wood figurers of Burmese warriors. From the apparent age of these and the ferocious aspect of the figures it seems probable that these gongs were taken from King Theebaw's Palace.

The Second Floor, except for the four wings, which contain nothing but bedrooms, some with sitting rooms and all with bathrooms attached, is now-a-days generally used only once a year for the Government House Ball in the cold weather season. Lord Curzon relates as a point of interest that in 1899 his subsequent colleague, Winston Churchill, who was very nearly being a member of his staff (presumably as an A.D.C. as he was then only 25 while Curzon himself was but 39) immersed himself for hours daily in his room in the South-East wing writing his book on the Omdurman Campaign.

The Southern Drawing Room, above the present Throne Room, was Entirely devoid of any furniture until the middle of the last century except for mirrors hung there by Lord Wellesley which were sold in 1841 as they had lost all their quicksilver, and it was only in Lord Mayo's time (1869-1872) that it was at all adequately furnished in preparation for the visit to Calcutta in 1870-71 of Queen Victoria's second son, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, then aged 26, the first member of Royal Family to visit India. A suite Louis XVI gilt furniture was ordered from Paris for the purpose with pink silk upholstery which has been renewed from time to time in various colors. Lord Curzon purchased a suite of Empire furniture for the second storey for the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales in 1905. The mirror surmounted by a peacock which now hangs at the East end of this room came from the palace of King Theebaw at Mandalay in the time of Lord Dufferin (1884-1888) during whose Viceroyalty the Third Burmese War was fought.

Until the rooms on the first floor of the South-East wing were Arranged as they are to-day, this room was used as the Drawing Room after large dinner parties, but now that the first floor has been adapted so as to meet the needs of every kind of party it, like the Ball Room, is only used once a year, the Viceroy and Vicereine and nobilities sitting in it between dances.

The Central Ball Room is a very interesting room historically for it was the scene of the first great revels held in Government House after its opening in 1803 and in commemoration of this Lord Curzon in 1903 gave a fancy dress ball in which the costumes worn were those of the period of 1803. The costume worn by Lord Curzon was a replica of that worn by Lord Wellesley and is now in the Victoria Memorial Hall.

From 1803 till about 1863 this room was the Throne Room in which durbars, levees, investitures and receptions were held by the Governors General. Up the center, on the occasion of the State Balls, have walked in stately procession every Governor General from Lord Wellesley to the present Viceroy and many members of the Royal Family also.

It is lit, as is the marble Hall and the other public rooms, by a large number of cut-glass chandeliers (there are altogether 68 of these in Government House in addition to a large number of cut glass girandoles). The original chandeliers and mirrors were purchased by Lord Wellesley at the sale of the effects of General Claude martin which was held in Luck now in 1801 at his fantastic place of Constantia now known as La Martini ere. In the succeeding century the chandeliers were frequently added to or repaired, usually by the firm of Osler & Co., and Lord Curzon found the old and the new jumbled up in a most incongruous fashion, but it was easy to distinguish which was which so he had them re-hung in the various apartments after sorting them out. A good many were taken away to New Delhi. Only one of the original chandeliers remains and is in the curved corridor leading from the Throne Room to the Brown Drawing Room. The difference between it and the new ones is that it is composed of a number of long glass prisms instead of cut glass drops.

There is little to be added about the North Ball Room. Mention has already been made of the picture of Queen Victoria after Angeli which hangs here. At State Balls when the Viceroy is present the Governor between dances sits here on a dais with troopers of the Body Guard standing behind him.

This completes the description of the interior of Government House and its contents. The next chapter will deal with the exterior and the grounds.