

Leigh Park

A 19th Century Pleasure Ground

THE OILS AND WATERCOLOURS
OF
JOSEPH FRANCIS GILBERT
1830-42

East Street Market, Chichester, 1813

Oil, 40.6 x 59.2 cm

Joseph Francis Gilbert (W.S.R.O)



Joseph Francis Gilbert, 1791-1855

- Born 8th November 1791, Aldgate, London. Son of Edward Gilbert & Martha Ann Gilchrist described as *'an inventor of several ingenious plans for firing bombs'*
- By 1801 Edward Gilbert has a watch & clock making business in East Street Chichester
Married 7th April 1814 Jane Snelling, Alverstoke, Hants. (10 children)
- By 1814 lived at 137 High Street, Portsmouth
- 1813-46 Exhibited six works at the Royal Academy – 28 in Principal London Exhibitions
- By 1816 moved back to Chichester (St. John's Street) – painting scenes of Sussex
- Worked in Lake District, Lancashire, Ireland, Wales – Patron 5th Duke of Richmond for whom he painted scenes from Goodwood racecourse
- Exhibited at British Institution, Society of British Artists & Royal Manchester Institution
- C.1841 moves to Southwark (26, Bennett Street, Blackfriars Road), London
- 1847 Exhibited at Westminster Hall an oil painting, *Edwin and Emma*, from a poem by David Mallet – 1853 last painting exhibited *'Abraham offering up Isaac'* (British Institution)
- 1854 Death of Jane Gilbert
- Died 25th September 1855 of paralysis after long illness at 17, Hopton Almshouses, Green Walk, Southwark, London – buried St. Bartholomew's Without Church, Chichester
- Son Francis Edward Gilbert (1820-1879) painter, engraver, photographer, Chichester & Australia (where he died)

View from Hill House (London Road, Portsdown), April 1812
Joseph Francis Gilbert
Portsmouth City Museums



Joseph Francis Gilbert & Leigh Park

- **1829** – First visit to Leigh Park – Watercolour & Oil painting of the Temple, 28 January 1830
- **1832** – Painted series of Watercolours (10 dated 1832) including the Shell House & Cross House, Beacon, Moss House & Stove House etc
- **1833** – ‘Leigh Park Scenery 1833’ – Two further Oil paintings of the Leigh House (from the South East & South West) & other Watercolours including the Gothic Library
- **1836-37** – further series of Watercolours including Leigh Water after completion of Lake (all now in private hands)
- **1836** – Notices of the Leigh Park Estate (published 1836) refers to Staunton having four Oil paintings & three Watercolours of Leigh House and Grounds in his London house (Devonshire Street)
- **C.1842** – Return to Leigh Park to paint Watercolours of Leigh Water (with statue of Diana - erected 1842)
- **1946** – Four Oil paintings including the Temple and two of Leigh House from the South East & South West donated to Portsmouth Museums. One other is of an unknown scene. Donated by Mrs Henry Lynch-Staunton. (One of Leigh House is currently on show in the Spring Arts & Heritage Centre).

Also donated were copies of prints of some of the Watercolours.

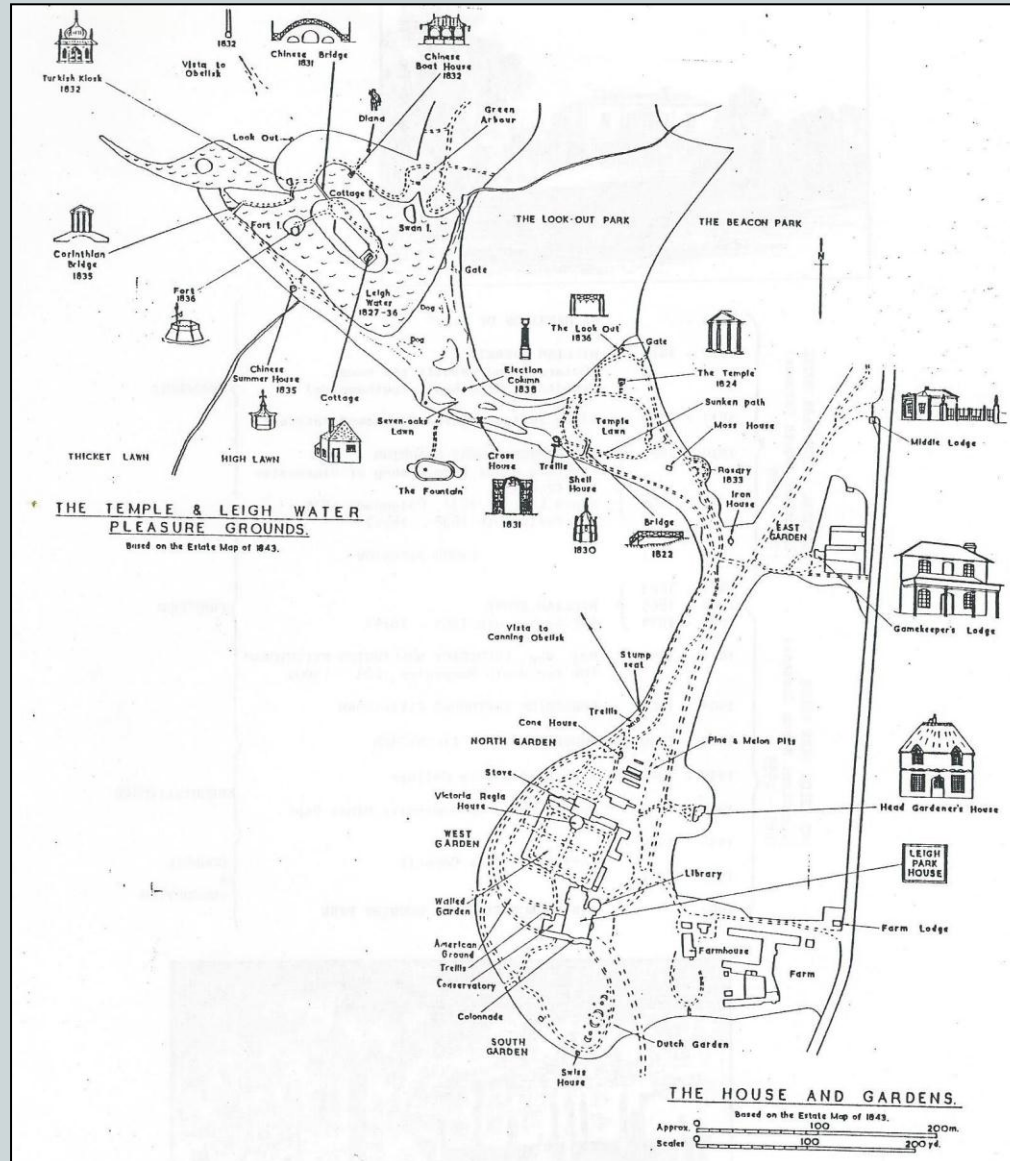
Sir George Thomas Staunton Bt., 1781-1859
By Sir Martin Archer Shee, 1833 (British Embassy, Beijing, China)



Leigh Park, (based on map of 1843)



Leigh Park, 1843 (based on Estate Map)



The Temple *'Parentibus et Amices defunctis sacrum'*, 28 January 1830

First painting of Leigh Park for Sir George Staunton

Commissioned 1829, Oil, (62x92cm)

Joseph Francis Gilbert



LIST OF BUSTS

IN

THE TEMPLE, LEIGH PARK,

1850.

VISITED LEIGH PARK IN		NAMES OF SCULPTORS.
	BANKS, Right Hon. Sir Joseph, Bart. Many years President of the Royal Society.	<i>Chantrey.</i>
1820—48.	BARROW, Sir John, Bart., Author of many Literary works, formerly in the Public Service in China and the Cape of Good Hope, and many years Second Secretary of the Admiralty.	<i>Behnes.</i>
1830.	BLOMFELD, Right Hon. and Right Rev. Charles James, Lord Bishop of London.	<i>Behnes.</i>
1820—47.	BRODIE, Sir Benjamin Collins, Bart., of Broome Park, Surrey, Sergeant-Surgeon to the Queen.	<i>Behnes.</i>
1843—9.	BUSFIELD, William, Esq. M.P. for Bradford. Presented by himself.	<i>Behnes.</i>
	CANNING, Right Hon. George, Secretary of State, and afterwards Prime Minister.	<i>Chantrey</i>
1843.	COPLESTON, Right Rev. Edward, Lord Bishop of Landaff.	<i>Behnes.</i>
	DENMAN, Right Hon. Thomas Lord: Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench.	<i>Moore.</i>
1845.	DISNEY, John, Esq. of the Hyde, Essex, some time Chairman of the Quarter Sessions. Presented by himself.	<i>Trentanove.</i>
1826.	EVELYN, George, Esq. Descendant and Representative of the Celebrated EVELYN, Author of the Sylva; Father of the Member for West Surrey. Presented by Mrs. Evelyn.	<i>Moore.</i>
1846.	FEW, Charles, Esq. Solicitor, of Covent Garden, and Streatham, Middlesex. Presented by himself.	<i>J. S. Archer.</i>
1827—39.	GILBERT, Davies Giddy, Esq. many years M.P. for Bodmin in Cornwall, and some time President of the Royal Society.	<i>Westmacott jun.</i>
1821—47.	GUILLEMARD, John Lewis, Esq. formerly a Commissioner for the Settlement of the Claims of American Loyalists, and some time Secretary to the Royal Institution and a Member of the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society. Presented by himself.	<i>Behnes.</i>
	HOBHOUSE, Sir Benjamin, Bart., Secretary of the India Board, and afterwards, for many years, Chairman of the Ways and Means, in the House of Commons.	<i>Chantrey.</i>
	HOWLEY, The Right Hon. and Most Rev. William, Archbishop of Canterbury.	<i>Chantrey.</i>
1826—43.	LEAKE, Lieut.-Colonel William Martin, Author of several works on Greece and Asia Minor; and some time British Minister in Albania.	<i>Behnes.</i>
	LIVERPOOL, Right Hon. Robert Banks, Earl of: many years First Lord of the Treasury and Prime Minister.	<i>Chantrey.</i>
1822—43.	MAXWELL, Acheson, Esq., formerly in Office at Madras, China and the Cape of Good Hope; and afterwards an Auditor of Public Accounts. Presented by himself.	<i>Behnes.</i>
1835—44.	NAPIER, Sir Charles, K.C.B. (Count Cape St. Vincent in Portugal), some time M.P. for the Borough of Marylebone, and Rear-Admiral in the Royal Navy. Presented by Lady Napier.	<i>Park.</i>
	RENNELL, Major James, the eminent Geographer. Presented by his daughter, Lady Rodd.	<i>Hagbolt</i>
	RENNIE, John, Esq., the eminent Engineer, and Architect of Waterloo Bridge.	<i>Chantrey.</i>
1819—50.	STAUNTON, Sir George Thomas, Bart., formerly President of the Select Committee, and King's Commissioner of Embassy in China, some time M.P. for South Hampshire; and now M.P. for Portsmouth.	<i>Behnes.</i>
	STRATHALLAN, James Drummond Viscount, some time President of the Select Committee in China.	<i>Macdonald.</i>
1827.	WESTON, the Rev. Stephen, D.D., Antiquary, and Author of numerous Literary Works.	<i>Behnes.</i>

In 1853 Staunton added the bust of Professor Richard Owen, the renowned biologist and naturalist making a total of 25

Leigh Park from the South East (front)

Oil 62 x 92 cm, 1833

Joseph Francis Gilbert

Portsmouth City Museums



Leigh Park House from south west

Oil, 62x 92cm, 1833

Joseph Francis Gilbert

Portsmouth City Museums



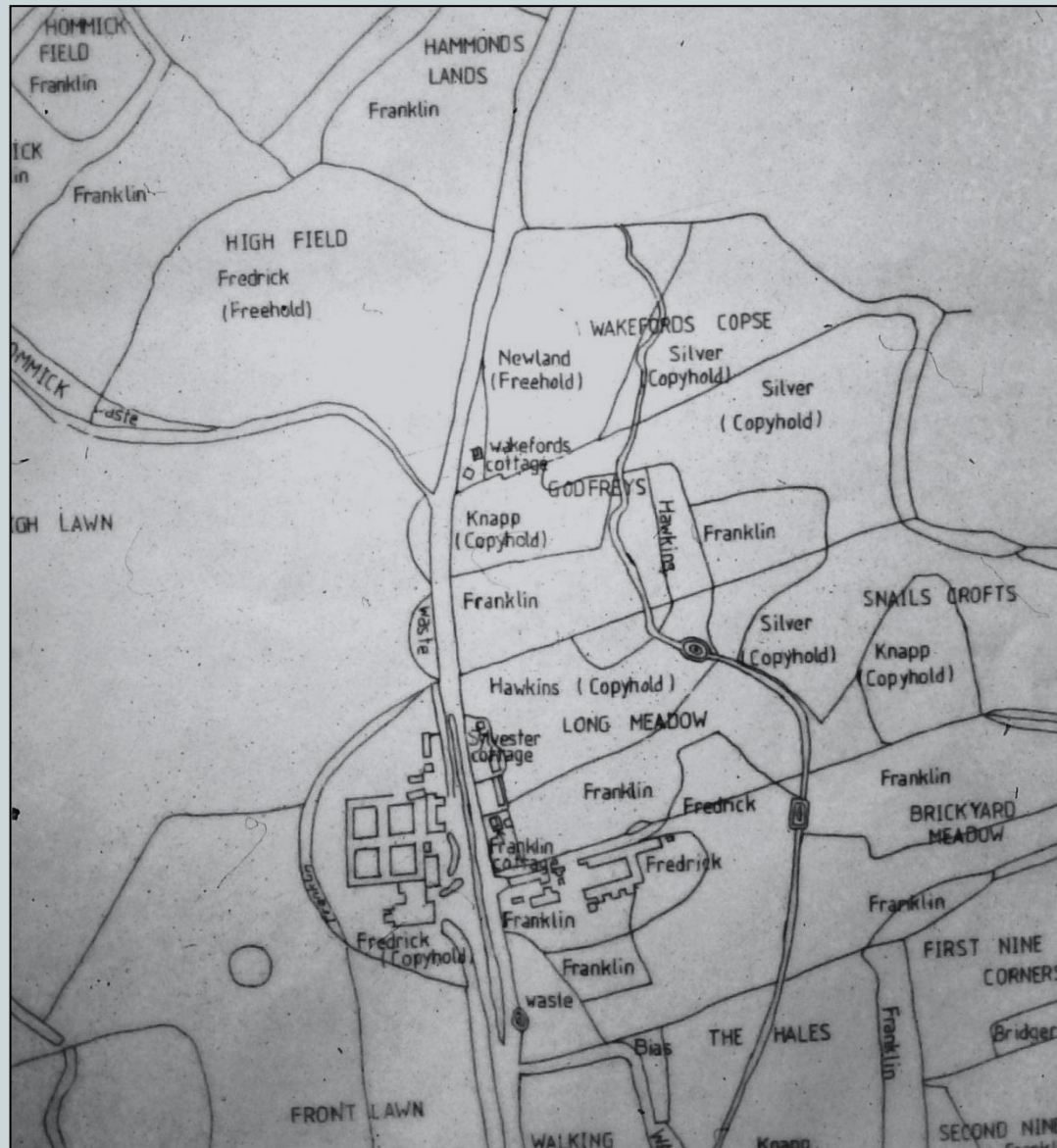
Leigh Park House, photographed c.1859
South View



Leigh Park House

- 1783-1792 – Built by Samuel Harrison (replaced earlier building of the Higgins & Webber families) – originally yellow brick
- 1792-1800 – Captain (Rear Admiral) Thomas Lennox Frederick RN
- 1800 – Acquired by William Garrett (22 acres) for the sum of £480
- 1802 – Substantially rebuilt by Garret. Architect John Kent of Southampton
- 1817 – Aborted sale to John Julius Angerstein (natural son of either the Empress Anne of Russia, or more believably, Elizabeth Petrova, the illegitimate daughter of Peter the Great) – allegations of Dry Rot
- 1819 (December) – Acquired by Sir George Thomas Staunton Bt. (828 acres) for £22,000
- 1828 – Colonnade and Conservatory added to designs of Lewis Vulliamy
- 1829-30 – Alterations made to house including decoration & gilding to interior rooms
- 1832 – Octagonal Gothic Library added to design of Lewis Vulliamy
- 1859 (10 August) - Death of Sir George Staunton Bt.
- c.1866 – Demolition of Staunton's house – only the Gothic Library and Conservatory (Camellia House & Orangery) remain
- New house overlooking Leigh Water built by William Henry Stone

Map of Leigh, 1792-1800



Leigh Park Estate Map (Tithe Map) 1843



Leigh Park House – South View

Watercolour 1832-36

Joseph Francis Gilbert



Leigh Park House – South East View

Watercolour 1832-36

Joseph Francis Gilbert



Leigh Park House – South West View

Watercolour 1832-36

Joseph Francis Gilbert



Leigh Park House – South West View

Watercolour 1832-36

Joseph Francis Gilbert



Leigh Park House – South East View

Watercolour 1832-36

Joseph Francis Gilbert



Leigh Park House – South East View

Watercolour 1832-36

Joseph Francis Gilbert



Gothic Library (built 1832)

Watercolour 1832-36

Joseph Francis Gilbert



Gothic Library 1944
Admiralty photograph



Leigh Park Garden Features

The Temple (Doric Temple)

The Temple was built in 1824 on the highest point of the estate as a family memorial and probably designed by Sir George Staunton himself with a large memorial urn at its centre from designs by Lewis Vulliamy. When completed the Temple contained dedications to Staunton's parents and further dedications to more distant relations and friends (*'Sacrum Parentis et Amices'*). In the following years 25 busts were added in total in a semi circle around the urn. Most of the busts were of friends of Staunton including: Admiral Sir Charles Napier, Sir Joseph Banks and Sir George Canning. The Temple was removed when William Henry Stone had his new house constructed on its site. The memorials were removed to the Shell House.

The Shell House (Staunton Memorial)

The Shell house was built in 1830 on the old Middle Thicket Lane and covered in shells from Hayling Island. The building, designed by Lewis Vulliamy, is hexagonal in shape and was based on the design of the Chichester Cross. By 1836 Staunton was using the shell house as a museum of curiosities for such items as a stuffed crocodile and examples of Roman pottery and other objects found close by.

The Beacon

The beacon is a folly built in 1830 in the style of an ionic temple to a design by Lewis Vulliamy. It was largely built with material from the demolished Purbrook House. It features a lotus flower on the roof designed to allow a flagpole to be placed there. The roof is domed and supported by eight Doric columns.

Leigh Park Garden Features

The Moss House

The Moss house appears to have been built at some point in the first half of the 1830s and featured a covered seat. The inside was lined with moss and the floor was made up of Emsworth pebbles of differing colours. It was removed in the 1860s as part of the redevelopment work undertaken by William Henry Stone.

Leigh Water

Prior to its construction its site was home to a pond a few yards in diameter. The initial construction of the lake took place between 1828 and 1836. A three arched bridge known as the Chinese bridge was built in 1830 and in 1832 two buildings were added; a boathouse apparently built to a Chinese design and a Pergola. In either 1832 or 1834 an ornamental Kiosk (Turkish Summerhouse) was added to the lakeside. It featured an onion dome surrounded by small Minarets. The lake is also home to a number of islands including Cottage Island and Fort Island *'upon which a battery has been built of Purbeck Stone, pierced for nine guns, and displaying, on a red pole, the Imperial yellow flag of China'* (Notices of Leigh Park, 1836).

Chinese Summer House

Built by 1833 the Hexagon shaped Summer House contained a seat with three sides open and three closed and was ornamented with three Chinese bamboo blinds; on which is represented the *Paeonia Moutan* (introduced to Britain in 1808), and on the other two are inscribed Chinese verses, descriptive of spring and autumn. The hexagonal towered roof was surmounted by a pinnacle and the corners of the roof were ornamented with bells.

Leigh Park Garden Features

The Cone House

Originally an arbor erected by William Garrett just north of the walled garden close to the pineapple pits it was refurbished by Staunton *and 'thatched with heath, paved with Emsworth pebbles, and ornamented inside with small fir cones, so arranged as to present an outline of a pineapple, amaranthus, strelitzia etc'* (Notices of Leigh Park, 1836).

The Obelisk (Canning Memorial)

Designed by Lewis Vulliamy and erected in 1832 the obelisk stood *'50 feet high, and is inscribed to the memory of the Right Hon. George Canning (1770-1827)... an ornamental termination to a natural avenue in Havant Thicket'* (Notices of Leigh Park, 1836). Staunton was a great supporter of Canning and said of him: *"one of the most consummate statesmen and one of the most brilliant of orators."*

The Election Column

Erected in 1837 in the middle of the lawn area sweeping down to the lake. This recorded the elections won by Staunton in his political career. Can be seen in a later painting by Charles Rogers Cotton.

The Cross House

Built by 1833 and shown in Gilbert's paintings. It stood close to the Shell House on the banks of the old Thicket Lane.

Turkish Kiosk

Built 1834 from designs by Lewis Vulliamy. One of the most charming of all the structures around Leigh Water with its onion dome flanked by miniature minarets.

Walter Butler in his 'A Topographical Account of the Hundred of Bosmere' written in 1817 records this account of Garrett's estate –

Leigh House has always attracted the notice of strangers, from the peculiar neatness and elegance of its appearance, its forest scenery, and its rich and interesting views of the sea. It stands upon a gentle eminence, in a park of four hundred acres, of hill and dale, ornamented with timber and plantations. All that wealth could command, or art supply, has contributed to embellish this beautiful domain. The house is substantially built, neatly finished, and comprises every comfort and conveniency in its domestic arrangements. The shrubberies are laid out with taste; and from its numerous wood walks, at different points, are seen many interesting objects of the neighbourhood. The view of Havant Thicket from the hermitage, clad with ivy, upon the mount is of a more sedate kind, highly interesting from its deep shade in summer, its beautiful tints in autumn, and serving as a contrast to the more brilliant views of the sea and its islands.

The gardens are planned with great judgement, and furnished with pinery, hot house, green houses, and stores, and surrounded with shrubberies and walks communicating in all directions

Extract from the Gardeners Chronicle

April 1845

Leigh Park, Havant.

The extent of these grounds and gardens and the high condition in which they are kept has long been a subject of notoriety with those who have visited the great establishments in all parts of the kingdom. Those however who have not inspected the gardens and pleasure grounds of Leigh Park have yet in store a rich field for the gratification of their taste in gardening as this country can afford. Any report however of this place that we can give must necessarily be meagre for it is difficult to say whether we most admire the extent and perfect keeping of the grounds, the magnificent glasshouses, or the high cultivation which distinguishes every plant in them.

From viewing the gardens you are conducted along a beautiful kept gravel walk to the 'Look Out' as it is called, from which you have a view of the lake, and overlooking the whole Forest of Bere and the adjacent country, almost an uninterrupted mass of wood.

Immediately opposite and amongst the trees you perceive an obelisk which was erected by Sir George to the memory of George Canning in 1827. But before descending to the lake you are conducted to the Temple the 'Sacrum Parentibus et Amices' containing busts in marble and terracotta of all Sir George's friends and intimate acquaintances, amongst which are Liverpool, Canning, Sir Jos. Banks, Dr. Bloomfield etc

The Beacon (built 1830)

Watercolour, 1832 (private collection)

Joseph Francis Gilbert



The Beacon, photographed 2013



The Shell House (built 1830) & Cross House
Watercolour, 1832 (private collection)
Joseph Francis Gilbert

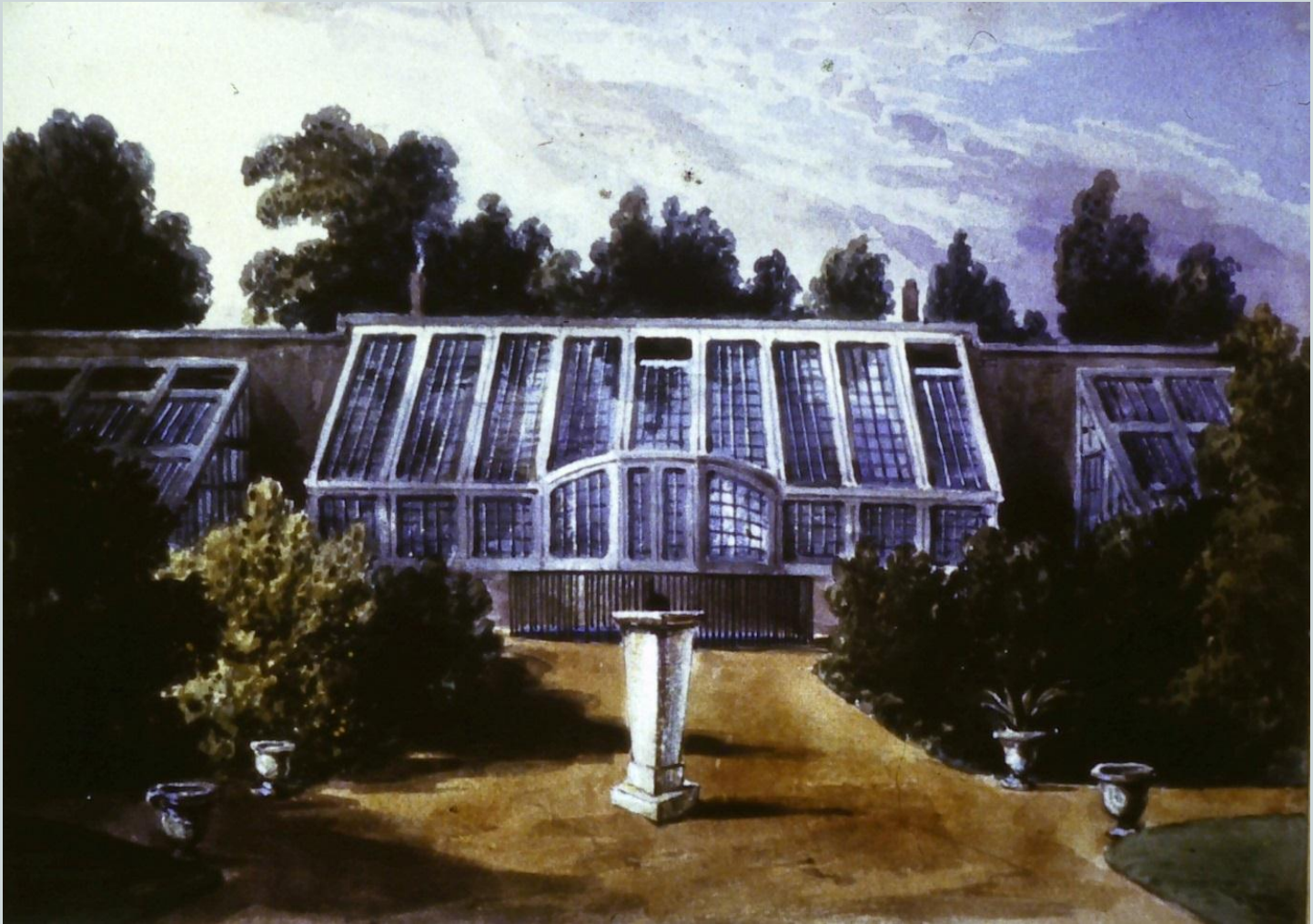


Shell House (Staunton Memorial)

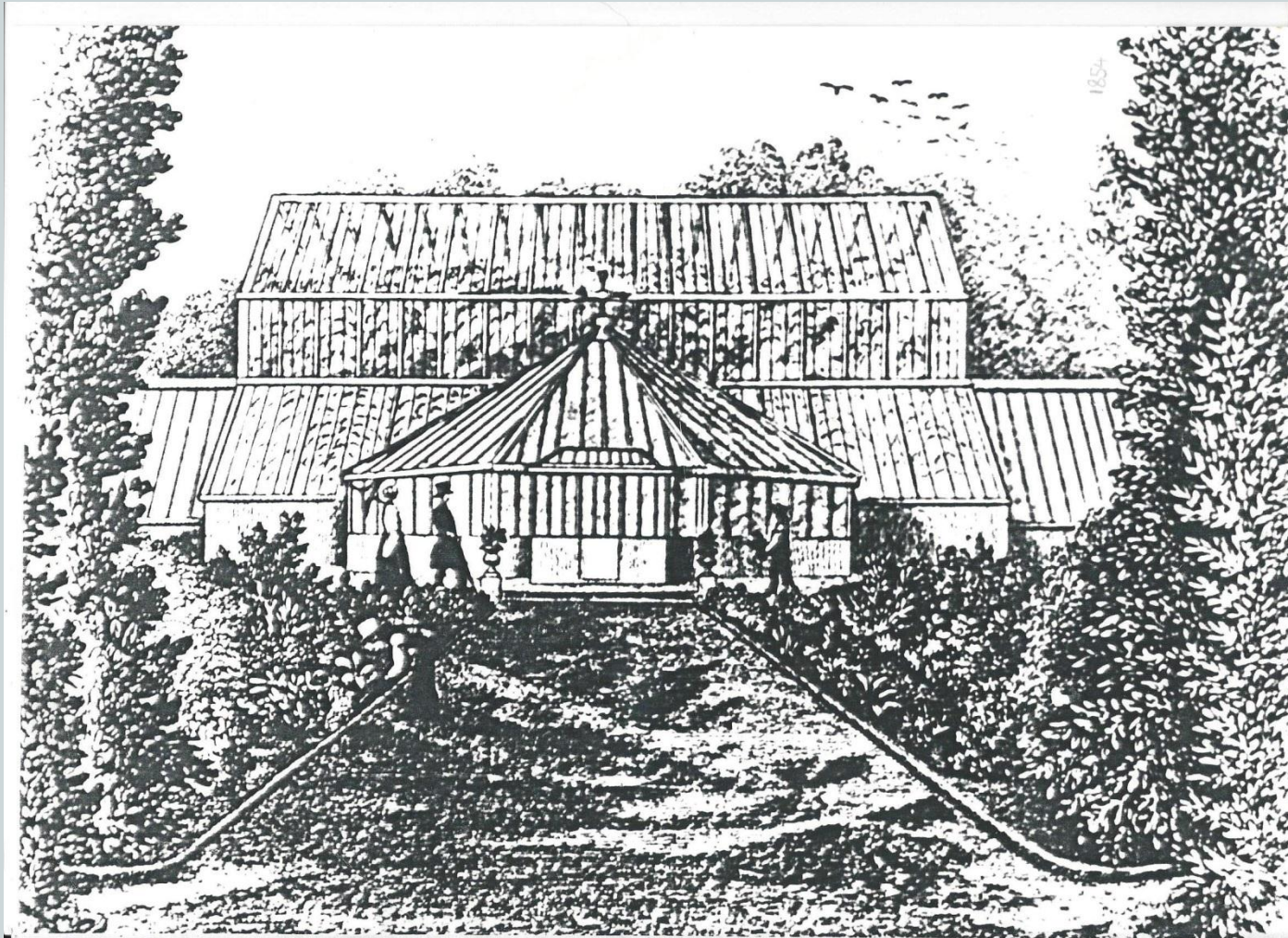
Photographed 2013



The Old Stove House
Watercolour, 1832
Joseph Francis Gilbert



The New Stove House (completed by 1853)
Engraving, 1854, W. Pink, Emsworth



Stove House (rebuilt 1994)
Photographed, 2002



The Moss House (built c.1830)

Watercolour, c.1832

Joseph Francis Gilbert



The Head Gardener's Cottage

Watercolour, c.1832

Joseph Francis Gilbert



The Gamekeepers Cottage (rebuilt 1828)

Watercolour, c.1832

Joseph Francis Gilbert



Leigh Park Farmhouse (Home Farm)

Watercolour, c.1832

Joseph Francis Gilbert



Leigh Park Farmhouse

Photographed 2000



Durrance or Middle Lodge - Later Stable Lodge (built 1828)

Watercolour. c.1832

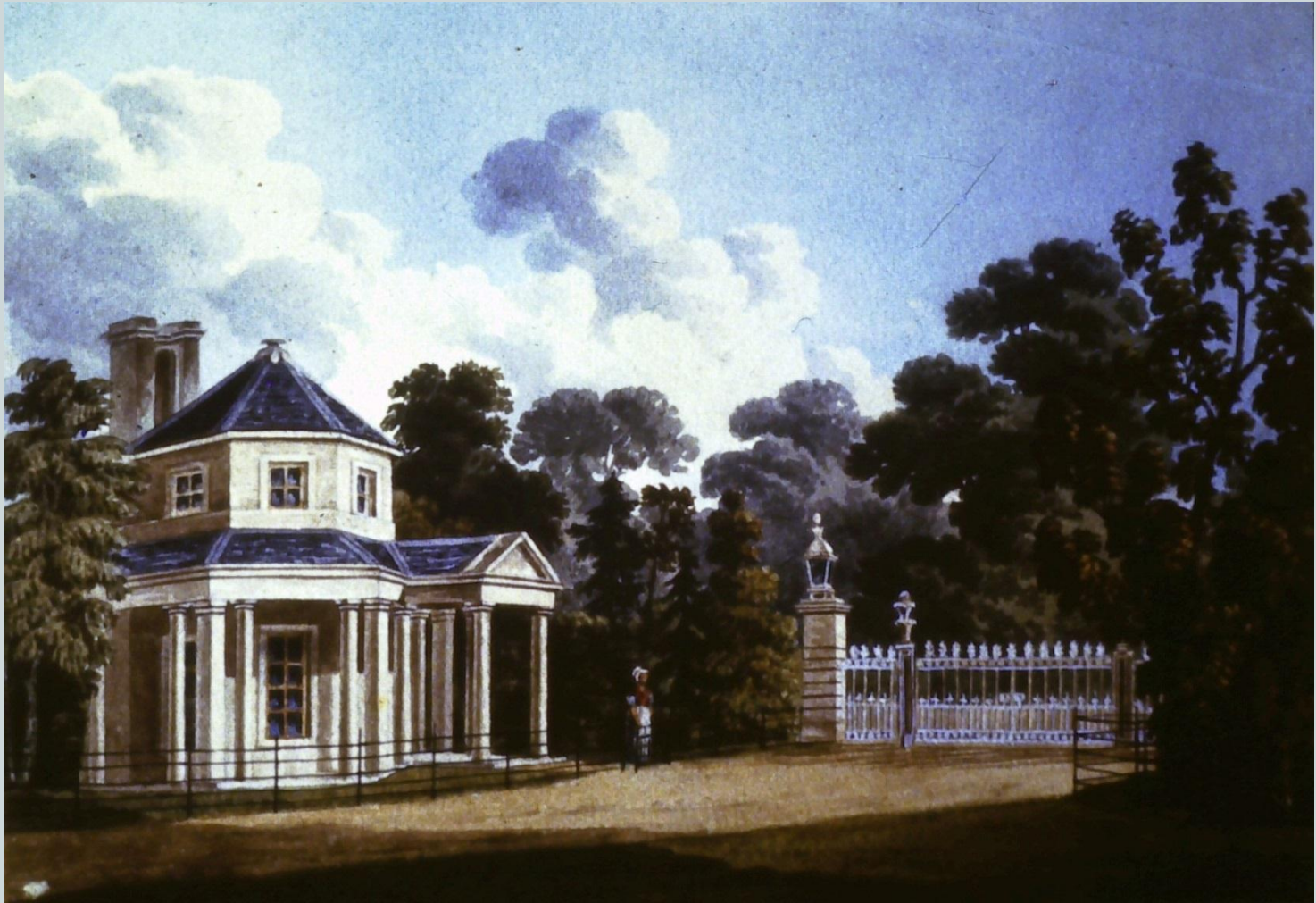
Joseph Francis Gilbert



South Lodge (built 1828)

Watercolour, c.1832

Joseph Francis Gilbert



South Lodge, 1944
Admiralty photograph



Leigh Park Estate Map (Tithe)

1843



Leigh Water, looking north west

Watercolour, c.1836

Joseph Francis Gilbert



Leigh Water, looking south east
Watercolour, c.1836
Joseph Francis Gilbert



Leigh Water, looking north west with Bondfield Turret Cottage
Watercolour, c.1836
Joseph Francis Gilbert



Leigh Water, looking north
Watercolour, c.1842
Joseph Francis Gilbert



Leigh Water – view of Island Cottage
Watercolour, 1836
Joseph Francis Gilbert



Leigh Water – view of Chinese Bridge & Chinese Boathouse
Watercolour, c.1836
Joseph Francis Gilbert



Leigh Water with Chinese Bridge

Photographed 2012



Leigh Water

Photographed 2011



Leigh Water, 2011 Water Festival



View towards Bondfield Turrett Cottage

Watercolour, c.1832

Joseph Francis Gilbert



View of the Park from the Mansion

Watercolour, c.1832

Joseph Francis Gilbert



View of the Park from the Mansion

Watercolour, c.1832

Joseph Francis Gilbert



View of the Park from the 'Hall Door'

Watercolour, 1832

Joseph Francis Gilbert



Charles Rogers Cotton c.1860



Charles Rogers Cotton, c.1860



Leigh Park House

Photographed, c.1870

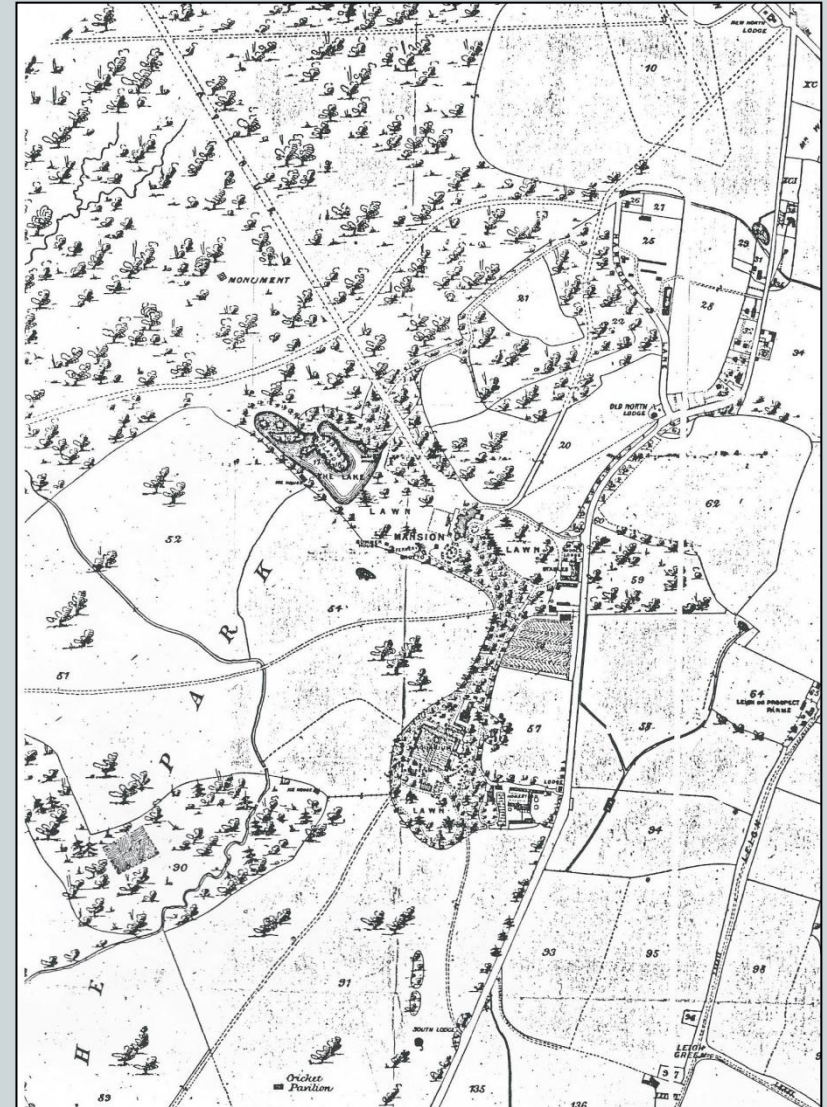
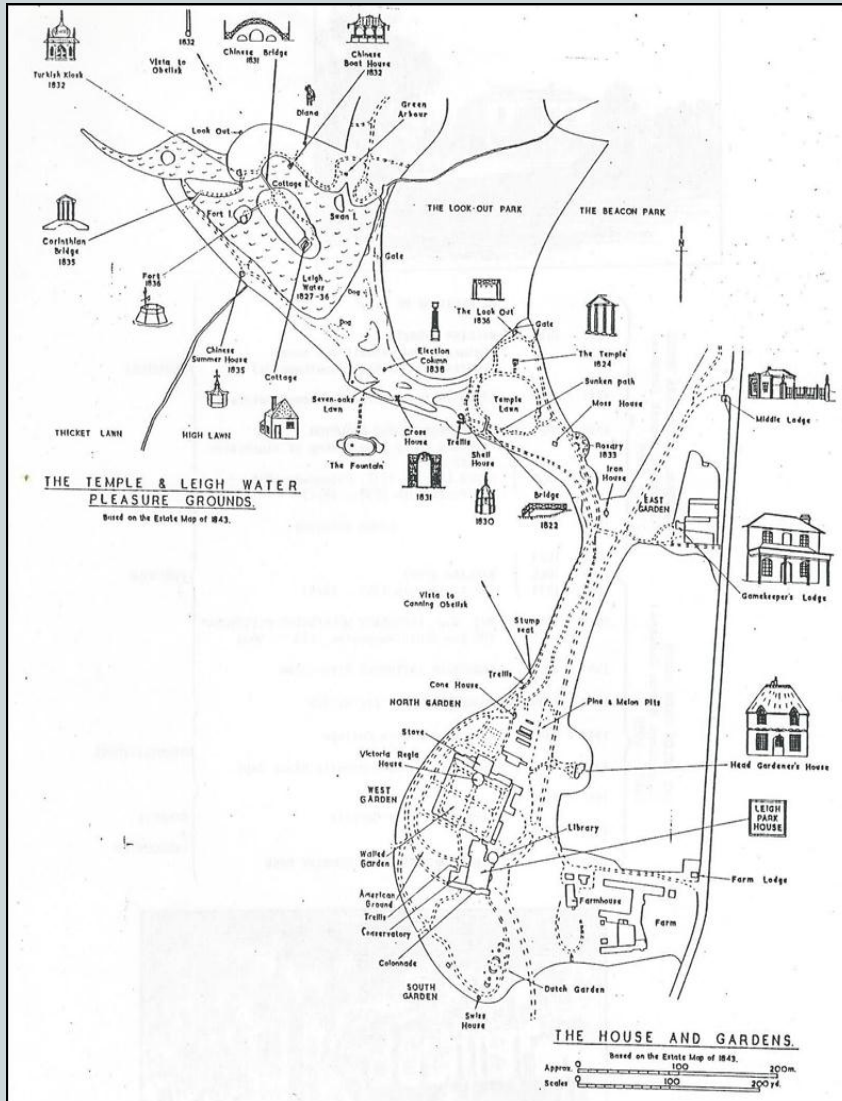


Leigh Park House, Front Elevation
Angela Fitzwygram, 1913



Staunton Estate Layout 1843

Stone Estate Layout 1874



Landscape with River and Ruined Castle, Oil, 5 July 1825
HM Treasury, Government Art Collection
Joseph Francis Gilbert



Winter Scene Oil, 1834
Lakeland Arts Trust
Joseph Francis Gilbert



Ullswater Head, Cumberland, Oil, 1834
Lakeland Arts Trust
Joseph Francis Gilbert



Lakeland Landscape, Oil, 2 May 1834
For sale at Christies, New York Sept 2012
Price estimate \$12,000-\$18,000
Joseph Francis Gilbert



View of the Upper Lake of Killarney, Ireland
Oil, undated
Joseph Francis Gilbert
Sold at Christies, New York



A View in the Lune Valley, Lancashire, from Caton, looking north east
towards Gressingham, c.1834

Commissioned by Thomas Eskrigge, cotton manufacturer of
Warrington (The Christopher Wood Gallery)

Oil, Joseph Francis Gilbert



Skaters in a Winter Landscape,
Oil, 1844 (private ownership – U.S.A.)
Joseph Frances Gilbert



Figures and Animals in Rural Landscape
Oil, 1813

Sold at Christies, New York, 3 September 2008
Joseph Francis Gilbert



South Harting
Oil, 1834
Uppark House (National Trust)
Joseph Francis Gilbert



Chichester Cathedral
Oil, 1833
Joseph Francis Gilbert



**Cowdray Ruins, Midhurst, Sussex. This Plate is, with permission, humbly dedicated to
Wiliam Stephen Poyntz Esq.r M.P. by his obed.t Serv.t Joseph Francis Gilbert.**

Drawn by J.F. Gilbert. Engraved by J. Clark.

[published by J.F. Gilbert, n.d.]

Etching and aquatint, very scarce; 410 x 555mm (16 x 21¾").

Grosvenor Prints, £360.00



Priam winning the Gold Cup, 1831, at Goodwood Racecourse
A hand coloured aquatint by John Clark from a painting by
Joseph Francis Gilbert (Isaac & Ede, £2,500)



A Pastoral Scene
Portsmouth City Museum
Oil, undated
Joseph Francis Gilbert



St. Thomas a Becket Church, Warblington
Portsmouth City Museum
Watercolour, undated





Hopton's Almshouses, Southwark, c.1850

Founded from a trust set up by Charles Hopton (d.1731), a wealthy London Merchant, for accommodation for 26 poor single men. Each resident received coal and £6 per year. Continuous occupation since 1752. From 1988 20 modernised cottages or flats have been available for men and their wives from the Southwark area.

Leigh Park

A Nineteenth Century Pleasure Ground

A Poem on Leigh Park, James King, 1829

A spacious garden near the mansion lies,
Where flowers and fruits in beauteous order rise,
Where shady walks their verdant maze confound,
And shower their mingled blossoms on the ground....
And many a bower of peace, and bright parterre
Of Arabesques of fairy flowers is there.