

**WALL PAINTINGS AT No. 73 HIGH STREET,
WINCHESTER.**

THIS house, which was for some years used as a Ladies' Club, has recently been occupied by Messrs. Bastick, Outfitters, of Southampton. The elevation to the street shows one of the best examples of those charming early 19th century bow windows, so characteristic of the city. Inside, in a back room on the first floor, are three wall paintings of 18th century date, which Messrs. Bastick have wisely decided to preserve, though it had originally been intended to cover them up. The most interesting of the three paintings, of horizontal oval form, occupies the N.E. corner of the room above the fireplace. It measures 42½ in. across by 35½ in. from top to bottom. Like the others, it has a painted border with foliage pattern. The scene depicted is that of a ruinous circular tower, so familiar in landscapes of the period. In the foreground is water and in the left background a three-masted ship flying the red ensign, beyond which rises a hill. There are several figures : a man and woman by the side of the water in the foreground and two men in red uniform near the tower. On the right is a shepherd with some sheep.

The picture on the N. wall is an upright oval measuring 35 in. by 32½ in., and is the only one bearing a signature, "Wm. Cavé." It depicts a cock and hen, chickens and a peacock perched upon a wall. The picture on the W. wall, also an oval upright of similar size to that on the N. wall, shows a cottage, at the door of which a girl is standing, while in the foreground is a cock, a hen and some other fowls. Traces of long strips bearing foliage decoration are apparent underneath the modern green distemper upon this wall, and it is evident that at one time the whole room had a complete scheme of decoration, with almost certainly another picture, now lost, upon the E. wall. The window fills the S. wall. Some of the paint seems to be flaking off, and advice as to the preservation of these most charming and interesting paintings would be welcome.

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