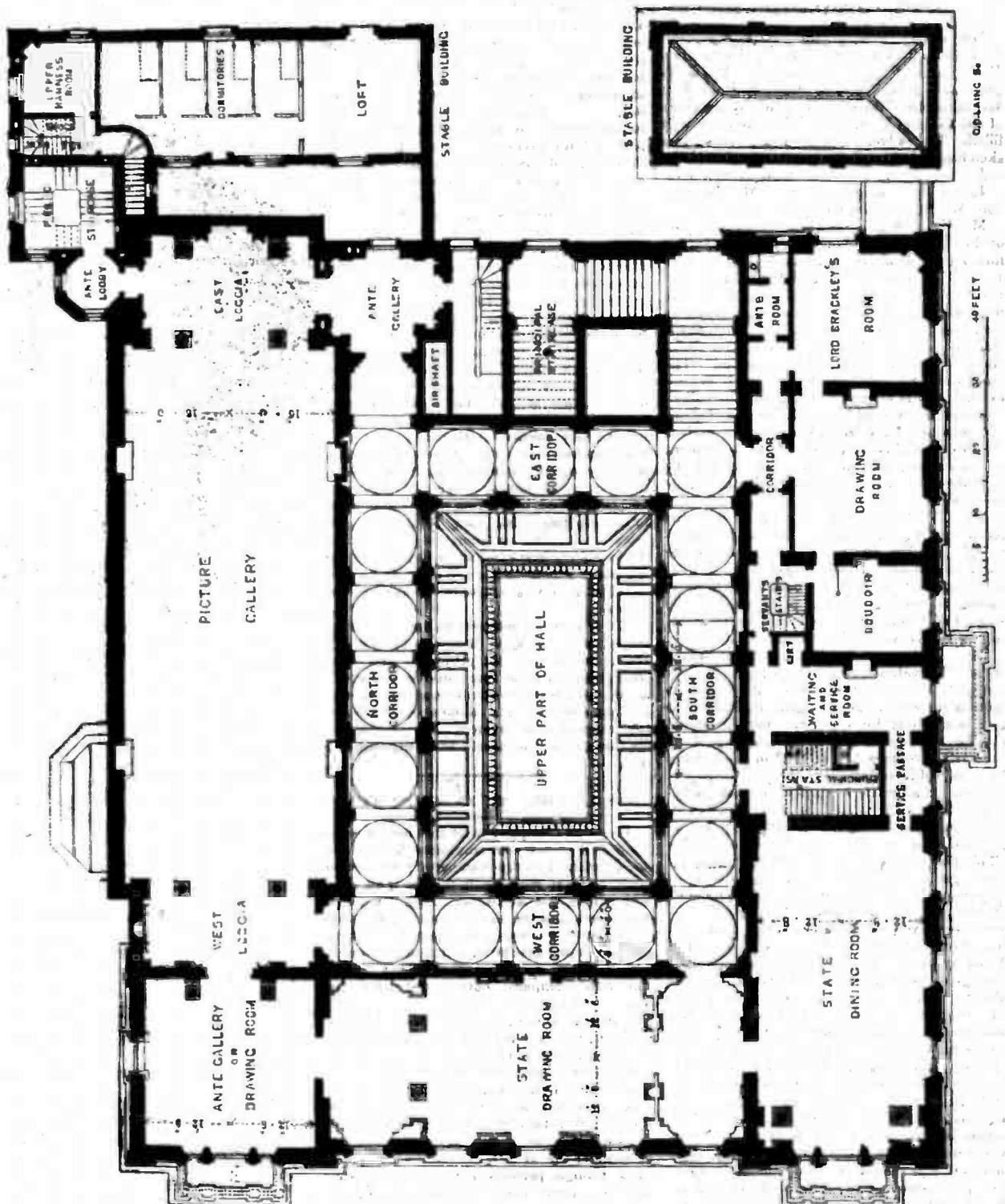


PRESENT PLAN OF BRIDGEWATER HOUSE.



#### THE ALTERED PLAN OF BRIDGEWATER HOUSE, LONDON.

We have been asked to give some information concerning the alterations which have been made in the internal arrangement of Bridgewater House, Cleveland-row, and cannot better comply with the request than by annexing a plan of the house as it is now proposed to be completed, which may be compared with the original plan given in our last volume (VI.), page 474.

It will be seen that a central hall has been formed, and the principal staircase moved to the side. The chief motive of the alteration is understood to be a desire to render the gallery and its approaches independent of the rest of the building, it being Lord Ellesmere's intention to afford the greatest possible facilities to the public for visiting his fine collection. A separate staircase has been constructed, with this end in view, at the north-east corner, and is surmounted by a campanile.

The entrance to the central hall is under the

apartment marked "service-room" on the plan.

We have received an ill-natured account, signed an "Employé of Mr. Barry," of what the hall is to be when finished, but being satisfied that, notwithstanding his signature, he writes in ignorance, as well as ill-feeling, we make no use of it.

The following, from a second correspondent, is fair criticism, to which we have no right to refuse a place:—

"With respect to the alteration in Bridgewater House, it might, in my opinion, have been better contrived. According to the first plan, there was no inner central hall on the ground-floor; now, on the contrary, there is too much,—one so disproportionately spacious and lofty, that, with the exception of the picture-gallery, all the rooms must look small by comparison with it,—that is, much smaller than they need do, or would have done, according to the first arrangement. Another

objection is, that, on its being first entered below, just as much will be seen as after ascending the staircase. Perhaps it would be better were the corridors to be partly enclosed, so as to leave only eight of the sixteen arcades open to the upper part of the hall, viz. three on each side and one at each end, which might be done not by stopping up those at the angles, but by merely glazing them with ornamental diapered or mosaic glass, in patterns of various colours; in which case the corresponding arcades below, if the corridors on the ground-floor be also quite open to the hall, ought to be closed up solid. That would confine the space sufficiently, and instead of the whole being disclosed at the first glance, parts would come into view successively,—would, after first appearing, disappear, and then appear again. It is not every architect that has a *forte* for plan—for so 'laying out' a mansion as to secure various effects by means of piquant contrasts, transitions, and combinations.