

Gopsal. Extra Parochial, hund. of Sparkenhoe, 3 miles N. W. from Bosworth, Gopeshille. contains about 724 acres, 1 house; its expenditure in poor-rates 12*l*. The sole proprietor and Lord of the manor is Earl Howe, who has a Seat called **Gopsal Hall**, which was built by Charles Jennens, Esq. about the year 1750, at an expence of 100,000*l*. It stands on the highest ground of the Park, and has its principal front towards the south. In the centre of the south front are six Corinthian columns of fine proportions, supporting a row of balustrades, behind which there is a receding pediment, (part of the wall of the house itself) having a ship in a storm carved in white stone, with a haven in the foreground, and an inscription over the entrance, "Fortiter occupa Portum." On each side of the centre of this front is a wing (that on the left forming the Chapel and the other the Library), projecting 27 feet from the front, the whole length of which, including the two wings, is 180 feet. The principal entrance is at the north front, and there is a small stone portico over the door which leads into the **Entrance Hall**; this hall is about 28 feet square, and at the south end is a **Gallery** supported on five Corinthian columns, the balustrades of which are richly carved and ornamented, forming a passage to the sleeping rooms above, and the ceiling is exquisitely chased in compartments, bearing various devices. The **Library** is a splendid room about 52 feet 6 inches long by 24 feet 6 inches wide, and very lofty; the window at the south end is of **painted glass**, the painting of which was executed by the Baroness Howe, and is particularly beautiful, both from the excellence of the painting as well as from its situation. The **Music Room**, which is about 40 feet long by 25 wide, contains a **very large organ**, in a mahogany case, (occupying nearly the whole breadth of the room), the open diapasons of which are the gilt speaking pipes in front and which are about 16 feet long. Between the library and music room is an **Anti-room**, 18 feet by 24, and by means of folding doors these three rooms can be laid into one. The **Dining Room**, 32 feet by 23, is lighted by four windows, and four smaller ones above; there is an elegant centre piece, occupying nearly the whole of the ceiling, representing **Neptune riding in a Nautilus shell** drawn by horses, and accompanied by a small figure playing on a conch before him, the remainder of the ceiling is beautifully stuccoed, as indeed are the whole of the ceilings throughout the house: there are several **fine Paintings** in this room; amongst which are the Portrait of Mr. Jennens, and a full-length figure of Handel, who composed his Messiah and some of his other works at Gopsal; the chimney piece is very splendid, having for supporters two Angels in Parian marble with their wings folded across their breasts. The **Chapel** is perhaps one of the most beautiful in England, its length is 36 feet, and breadth 24 feet, the seats, altar, and wainscoting are entirely of cedar, richly and tastefully carved, except the standards of the communion table, which are made out of the oak in which Charles II. concealed himself after the battle of Worcester; the chimney piece is most exquisitely carved in marble, and over it hangs a fine Painting of our Saviour's **Crucifixion**, by **Vandyke**; the ceiling is tastefully chased with flowers in various compartments, similar to those of the rest of the house; the Reading Desk or Pulpit, is partly formed of a golden eagle, with its wings expanded, and the other parts of it are cedar elaborately carved and decorated.