

WOODFORD

The 8th May, 1748.

My Lord Tilney's Magnificent House.

In the afternoon Mr. Warner took me and several of his Swedish friends with him to show us My Lord Tilney's magnificent *Palais*, which lies between Woodford and London, about six miles from the last-named place. We had here a clear example of how disadvantageous it is not to observe moderation in what one is about to undertake. The following was narrated to me about this house - It was about twenty years ago, or a little more, that *My Lord Tilney*, an Irish earl, was pleased to erect here a new and magnificent house with a large and beautiful garden round it, because the site lay uncommonly well, and the view from it was very delightful on all sides. *My Lord Tilney* was then a lord possessed of much money, which he had inherited from his forefathers. The difficulty met him at the place where the house should be built, that there was no water; but money could cure all such things. Where, previous to that time there was scarcely anything but a ditch with a little water in it, we now saw a large flowing river, all made with art and human labour. He had had dug about the whole place many ponds, **dammar**, of which one and another resembled a little lake, so that the one which lies in front of the windows of the mansion, and is all artificially made, is so large that they can sail to and fro [T. I. p.392] on it with large boats. Around the house there is on one side a large and beautiful garden with manifold allies, **Alleer**, promenades, trees clipped and hewn in all sorts of ways, several summer-houses, orangeries, forcing-houses, **dref-hus**, ruins, and arches of bent trees. In a word, all that can be required and produced by art in a garden. For a long distance, towards all sides, there were planted in *allées*, rows, and other forms, all sorts of trees but that which principally excites the admiration of the spectator is the magnificent large building, which is all of hewn stone, and more resembles a royal palace than a private man's property, without as well as within.

In it there were very many rooms furnished in the most costly way, and this so that one room was not like another. Magnificent paintings, extensive tapestries, **Tapeter**, costly tables of many kinds of marble, large crystal *lustres*, **ljus-kronor**, gilded chairs, tables, ceilings, **tak**, &c., various kinds of statuary, **Bildhuggeri**, and what varieties the East and West Indies can supply, were here displayed before the eyes. We saw tapestries, Tapeter, or more correctly, a kind of screen, **skärm**, of crosswise-laid glass threads, **glastraå**, of several colours, and picture-scenes, which resembled fine cloths, **tyger**, and were said to have come from the East Indies. It was affirmed that My Lord Tilney had laid out so much on all this that he has barely as much left that he can in some sort support his state, or maintain, **hallå vid magt**, what he has here erected. This was evident both with the house and garden, which had not been fully completed, because the owner's resources did not allow him to incur further expense.

Extract from KALM'S ACCOUNT OF HIS VISIT TO ENGLAND ON HIS WAY TO AMERICA IN 1748, translated by Joseph Lucas, Macmillan and Co., 1893.

Note: the Swedish expressions in the text are not un-translated, but relate to the word or phrase immediately before them, and are given to clarify the translator's choice of words. RJA

Pebr Kalm (6 March 1716 - 16 November 1779) (in Finland also known as Pietari Kalm and in some English-language translations as Peter Kalm) was a Swedish-Finnish explorer, botanist, naturalist,

and agricultural economist. He was one of the most important apostles of Carl Linnaeus. Among his many accomplishments, Kalm can be credited for the first description of Niagara Falls written by someone trained as a scientist.

In 1748 Kalm spent six months in England, where he met many of the important botanists of the day.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pehr_Kalm