

Visit
to
Sandgate
in
Kent.

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Aug. 14. - Left London for Sandgate on the S. coast of Kent: Route thro' Maidstone, Lenham, Ashford & Flythe. -

Aug. 15. - Walked to Sallwood Castle near Flythe: the greater part a mere ruin, but possessing some very interesting features; - The Keep or gate-house, with two lofty round towers in front flanking the entrance, is almost the only habitable portion remaining & is used as a farmhouse. - The exact period when this castle was built is uncertain. - Some portions are said to be more than 1000 years old, or to date even as far back as the year 488, & have all the characters of Norman, or perhaps Saxon, Architecture; - but the greater part is far more recent, & of decorated character. In the room now used as a parlour is a very elegant groined roof; & in each of the round towers, an hexagonal camerated chamber, the roof with scarpentate panelling.

Aug. 16. - Visited Dover, where we dined, returning in the evening. - Dover St Mary is an interesting church with some Norman portions. - About a quarter of a mile before entering the town, & on the left side of the road, are the remains of an old Priory, of decorated character, now used as a farmhouse.

Aug. 17. - Visited Flythe Church; a very singular edifice, principally of Early English character, but with some Norman portions at the West End. The chancel, which is very elegant, has two side aisles, that to the right being used as a Baptistry & possessing an elegant font of Early English character. Above this aisle is a triforium, of four arches, each divided into two by a central shaft. - In the S. aisle of the nave a beautiful Norman arch. In the chancel, two elegant stone stalls & two water drains with befoiled heads. - Under the chancel is a fine Early English crypt, with groined roof & entrance door with very delicate mouldings. - In this crypt is an immense stack of human bones 28 feet long & 7 or 8 feet high: they are said to be

those of a large army of Danes who invaded the coast of Kent in the year 843, in the time of Athelwulf, & were slaughtered by the Britons to the number of 30,000: - this statement, however, is not corroborated by any historical testimony. - The singular appearance of Hythe Church arises in part from the chancel being nearly twice the height of the nave. - A band of Early English paralleled ornament runs nearly round the whole outside of the building.

Aug. 18. Went to Folkestone. On our way thither, noticed Dianthus Armeria, Solanum dulcamara var. with white flowers, - Hippophae rhamnoides, & on the shingly beach Arenaria peploides. - on the slope of the downs next the sea, - we collected a large quantity of Felis Cesthusianella of Knapman. - Folkestone Church is Early English, but with many modern windows: tower in centre: chancel large with two side aisles separated from the central portion by two Early English pointed arches; on the north side of the chancel a very handsome decorated monument, said by some to be that of one of the Constables of Dover Castle; but this is uncertain. - Returned to Sandgate by the village of Cheriton, which is probably a corruption of Cherry-Town, - the wild cherry being very abundant in hedges in the neighbourhood. - We noticed also Coryza squarrosa & Crepis biennis in plenty. In a field of wheat, having lucerne at bottom, we found a single specimen of Centaurea solstitialis. - Cheriton church is Early English of good character; particularly the chancel, in which alone the original lancet windows are retained; the rest being of later insertion. - In our way home across the Downs, - found the remains of Brobanche major amongst bracken. -

Aug. 21. Walked to Lympne, about 2 or 3 miles beyond Fletche, - where are the remains of an old Castle with Church & small village adjoining, - the whole standing on the top of a lofty hill & commanding a fine view of the sea in front & Romney Marsh to the right. - By the side of the military canal we gathered Typha angustifolia, & near Lympne Carduus crispiflorus in plenty.

Lymne Church appears to be an ancient structure, with a very heavy massive tower in the centre without parapet, & singular in having the upper edge of the tower not horizontal. At the Western extremity is a good Norman door. The windows are principally of late insertion. — The Castle is now used as a farm house, & has some interesting portions still remaining. The arches of the windows, which are in part blocked up, are decorated. The entrance doorway perpendicular. — In the kitchen are two enormous open fire-places. —

Aug. 23. — Returned to Town. —