Visit
to the
South Coast.

1839.

1839.

Octob. 30.

Left London for Ramsgate: - took the steam-boat from London Bridge at 9 a.m. - but owing to a very strong wind up the river, we were unable to proceed further than Herne Bay, where we landed at 5 p.m. not without much difficulty & some personal risk, after an exceedingly rough passage. - Pier at Herne Bay nearly a mile in length, up wh we had to walk on quitting the boat, before we were in the Town. Merely stopped while a conveyance was getting ready to take us on to Ramsgate by land, where we arrived late in the evening, - & not a little fatigued & exhausted by the day's voyage & journeying.

Nov. 4.

Walked round by St. Peters, Kingsgate, Broadstairs, & under the cliff back to Ramsgate.

Nov. 5.

Walked to Minster, interesting as the site formerly of an abbey, of wh some small remains still exist. - The church deserves examination, and has several good points about it: principally Norman & E. English: there are some good stalls in the chancel, & in one or two parts of the church some old pavement; - also a curious old chest, - & the remains of a Bible chained to the desk. -

Nov. 6.

Visited Sandwich, a very curious & ancient town, principally with the view of inspecting its three churches St. Clements, St Peter, & St Mary. - The first of these is the most interesting, - principally Norman & E. English character; - a good font; noticed the monument of late Mr Boys the well-known antiquary & naturalist of this town, & author of the Testacea minuta rariora, on wh was a very good epitaph descriptive of his character & literary attainments. After seeing the churches, visited St. Thomas's & St Bartholomew's Hospitals two small religious houses in former times, the latter in the E. Engl. style, &

very good. —

Nov. 7.

Left Ramsgate for Canterbury, where I remained a day to see the Cathedral, a very magnificent building, but not equal to York Minster: principally of Norman & Perpend. character, — some few portions E. English. The nave is Perp. & extremely beautiful — elegant groined roof: central tower partially fan in inside with very beautiful roof. Choir & side aisles Norm. & E. Eng. mixt; behind the altar is Trinity Chapel, curious from the side arches being set sloping so as to narrow the middle aisle; the Eastern portion of this chapel is circular, & has attached to it Eastward, a circular chapel called Becket's crown, in wh are some very rich windows. Several of the chapels in this Cathedral have circular E. ends, & are deserving of attention; as well as many very rich monuments: that of Arch Bp Chichely a gorgeous example of decorated work, splendidly gilt. — Beneath the choir is an extensive crypt — principally Norman, with some E. Engl. portions. Cloisters Perpend. with a little E. Engl. here & there. The Registry has some curious remains of an old Norm. staircase. ——— In another portion of the town are some remains of St. Augustine's Monastery, more especially a gateway of very beautiful Decord char. with the original wooden doors still standing. —

Nov. 8.

Left Canterbury for Dover, deviating a little from the main road in order to visit Barfreston, a small village, celebrated for its very curious church, wh with the exception of a few insertions, is ~~all~~ entirely Norman & possessing many rich portions, as well as singularities. — The church is small, & consists only of a nave & chancel: its inside length is not quite 44 feet, its breadth 18. — There is a very rich South door with sitting figures & other ornaments in the tympanum; & at the E. end is a circular Norm. window in its original state, with a broad moulding over it consisting of animals & other devices. —

Nov. 9.

Took up quarters at Shakspeare Hotel, Dover. — Visited different portions of the town, including the remains of the old Priory, the Maison Dieu, St. Marys & St James's churches (the former Norman), & Dover Castle: in this last had my attention more particularly drawn to the old ruined church & Roman Pharos (as it is called), wh. are built principally of Roman bricks but the former contains some E. English remains wh. appear to have been ~~worked~~ introd. into the Roman ~~work~~ work at a subsequent period. — The small building in the castle itself, called St John's chapel, ~~is~~ one of the most complete mixtures of Norm. & E. Engl. character that I ever remember to have seen.

Dover has a small museum of Nat. Hist, wh. I visited, containing British & foreign birds, also several British fish, &c. —

Nov. 11.a

Left Dover for Hastings, coasting it thro' Folkestone, Hythe, & across Romney Marsh, &c. — Did not remain there more than one night; & on the follow. day proceeded on to Brighton. —

Nov. 13.

Visited Shoreham, a place of considerable antiquity, & with two very inter: esting churches. New Shoreham church particularly curious: Norman, with the original nave now in ruins: the choir, wh. constitutes the body of the present building, has many portions late Norm. passing into E. Engl., & presents some very curious combinations of the two styles, with ornaments & mouldings of a very unusual character: — The altar is of stone: the font old Norman, & very curious. —

Hove church, wh. I entered on my return homewards, is quite modern in appearance, being restored ~~to~~ Norman; — many portions quite new. —

Nov. 16.

Took a walk to a place called the Dyke, on the Edge of the South Downs, from whence there is a very beautiful view over the weald. —

—||—