8-23-1883

Violet Paget (Rye, England) to Matilda Paget (Bagni di Lucca, Italy)

Vernon Lee (Violet Paget)

Matilda Paget

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Aug. 23.

Dear Mamma,

I don't know yet whether we shall go to Midwinter or Saturday or on Tuesday, as then write to Mr. Fisher. I hope it may be Tuesday, as we shall be extremely sorry to leave this lovely place; and although I have rough finished my paper, there is still a deal to do with it.

Yesterday we took a long, long drive through the marsh to the sea side. It's a sandy, very northerly looking
although Rye itself, with its red houses and steep grant
grown street, is acciding
Southern looking. The sea
is separated from the marsh
only by low sand dunes
from with grey grass very
dacolate, the two solitude,
side by side. The sea had
for some one, there were
lots of shells & sea weed
about. But it is not near
as pretty, for after
Coast, as at Viareggio.
The driver (proprietor of
the) Fores Tram is an
intelligent man who has
just returned as a sailor,
from Australia. He
showed us in Rye harbor
two or three large
sailing boats (the trade
is timber & coal from
Norway & Yorkshire)
which have been
considered as unseaworthy
by the new regulations.
introduced by Plimoth, & are going to be broken up. A broken up two masters will sell as low as £10. Before Plimoth has the Bill passed, quantities of ships fit to see which, the man says were mere floating coffins, doomed on the first squall. But the number of sailors so enormously exceeds the demand for them, it even
The number of captained mates that a shipowner could always get a company. He says that even now the sailors retain dislike to Plimole regulation because it diminisheth the number of ships of coast. He says that the number of wicks on his coast was enornous it still is considerable (a cliche in the west of folkstone).

In last centuries the Rye people were Wreckers and smugglers, he says.
Most of the old houses have secret cupboards. Did I tell you by the way that the altar in the church here, of mahogany, is made of part of one of the Armada ships wrecked on this coast?

We passed through a village in the forest, called East Guilford.
While tradition vaunting
The Vicar was one in place.
As hammers fell, hand to
Swoon away, run into
Church.

His late; Jan kind-
Softly right, Duncanoe

P.S. It appears that
Rye, in his medley,
Was, like Mont St. Michel
In Brittany, on a
rock in the sea, and accessible only at low water; while Winchelsea, whose site is marked by a castel belonging in the marsh, was an island close by.