8-23-1883

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

Vernon Lee (Violet Paget)

Matilda Paget

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Re. Aug. 23.

Dearest Mamma,

I don't know yet whether we shall go to Midhurst on Saturday or on Tuesday, as then Wink to Thursday. 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 seaside. This a sandy, very northern coast.
although Rye itself, with its red houses and steep gray grown streets, is decidedly Southern looking. The sea is separated from the marsh only by low sand dunes from which grey gaper very chocolate, the two solitude, side by side. The sea had she gone out, there were lots of shells & sea weed along; but it is not near as pretty, for off the Coast, as at Viareggio.
The driver (proprietor of
the piano) has arrived from
Australia. He
showed us in the harbour
two large
calking boats (the trade
is timber & coal from
Norway & Yorkshire)
which have been
considered as unsealed
by the new regulation.
introduced by Pliny, &c. are going to be broken up. A broken up two masts, will sell as low as £10. Before Plinmoth has the Bill passed, quantities of ships go to sea 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 captains and mates that a shipowner could always get a company. He says that even now the sailors retain dislike the Plimsole regulation because it diminishes the number of ships of coast. He says that the number of wrecks on this coast was enormous and is considerable (a little to the west of Folkestone). In last centuries the Rye people were wreckers of 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 part of one of the Armada ships wrecked on this coast?

We passed through a village in the north, called East Guilford.
While tradition says the
Brocarn was one in line
with Mussafes, parents
to cow awag, ran into the
Church.

His last, I am kind;
softhearted, munificent

P.S. It appears hot
Rye, in his middenaps,
was, like Mont St. Michel
in Brittany, on a
rock intestae, and accessible only at low water; while Winchelsea, whose site is marked by a castle belonging in the marsh, was an island close by.