



Vol. XIX.—No. 972.]

AUGUST 13, 1898.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

TYPICAL CHURCH TOWERS OF ENGLISH COUNTIES.

PART XI.

KENT.

WHEN we consider the vast importance of Kent as a county, containing the ecclesiastical metropolis of England and the seat of the archbishop of the southern province of this country and its two most ancient episcopal sees, when we know that it has always been the high road to the Continent and so rich in agriculture as to have received the appellation of "the Garden of England," full of large villages and towns, with pilgrimage ways, important abbeys, castles, and manors—one is naturally led to expect that the parish churches would yield to none in this country in splendour and size. Now although the Kentish churches are remarkably interesting and many of them valuable examples, especially on account of their antiquity, yet if we except the two cathedrals there are none which could be called either grand or magnificent, and it is a curious fact that the smaller churches are far more interesting and beautiful than the larger ones. This is to be accounted for by the fact that the large churches are really small churches enlarged from time to time, showing that the villages and towns increased slowly in point of population—just the reverse of what took place in Norfolk and Suffolk, where at the commencement of the fifteenth century manufacturing industries caused a great influx of inhabitants from other counties, and thus the small old churches had to be rebuilt entirely upon a much grander scale.

If we look at such churches as Margate, St. Lawrence, St. Clement's, or St. Peter's, Sandwich, we shall notice that although they cover a large space of ground they are so exceedingly low that they have little grandeur

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LYMINGE, KENT.