

are extensively distributed. The surface is beautifully undulating, or as it is termed on your side the Atlantic, rolling; and the agriculture seems to be clean and thorough; particularly hop-culture, which is quite equal to that of ordinary kitchen gardens. Indeed I thought in some instances that the farmers cultivated their hop-fields more highly and expensively than they did their gardens. In the numerous valleys of the district, through each of which meanders a stream of more or less capacity, there is always to be found a rich alluvium, generally in permanent pasture, and sustaining large numbers of sheep and cattle. Many of these lands have been in pasture from time immemorial, and unlike such lands in Canada, the grass becomes thicker and more nutritious as they get older; hence the reluctance felt by most landlords to allow the old rich pastures to be broken up, and used for the purposes of arable husbandry, as it takes many years to get them down again into as good grass as before. In these pastures, which are thick and soft, there are frequently to be found a dozen or more different species of permanent grasses. Some coming early and flowering in spring, while others will ripen in succession through the summer and autumn, so that an English pasture has always different kinds of grasses in perfection, which, with its moist and equable climate, renders raising stock so marked a characteristic of British agriculture, and so valuable a source of national wealth. I found, however, from conversation with many intelligent farmers, that only the best pastures were profitable to keep permanently, and that those of second rate quality on poorer or more ungenial soils, it would pay better to subject to the alternate husbandry; when grain is high the temptation to break up old pastures is very great, and it is no doubt profitable on such as are inferior. I passed the fine old ruin of Bodiham Castle, situated on the banks of the Rother, in a valley of surpassing beauty and fertility. The castle, which is surrounded by a moat, with a drawbridge on the north side, is kept in a good state of repair, and in the summer time is a point of considerable attraction to visitors of Hastings, and pic-nic parties from the surrounding country.

There are many nooks and corners of great interest and beauty which I have visited in the adjoining County of Kent, but want of space forbids particularizing. With the country around Maidstone I was highly delighted; anything approaching to the richness of the scenery and the garden-like cultivation I never saw before. This district has for centuries been designated "the garden of Kent," as Kent itself has been called "the garden of England." The soil is a limestone rock, belonging to the geological formation of the green sand; so called from the greenish particles of silica often observed in it. It is excellently adapted to agricultural purposes generally, and to the growth of all kinds of fruit suited to the climate. In looking over a few square miles around Maidstone, you may see thousands of acres in hops and fruit; the latter including apples, pears and cherries, with large quantities of gooseberries, currants, &c., which are of the finest quality. The filbert-nut is raised here in large quantities and of the best quality. It is cultivated in orchards in which are other kinds of fruit, the tree is not allowed to grow more than five or six feet high, the shoots being annually cut back and the centre kept clear, the whole assuming a sort of inverted bell-shape, which allows light and air freely to reach the clustering fruit. Some of this fruit-land will rent for forty or fifty pounds an acre per annum. In different parts of this country, I observed that fruit trees are sometimes planted with hops; so that when the latter are taken up, in the course of ten or a dozen years, the fruit trees will have attained considerable size, and will be coming into full bearing.

By the way I may mention that the beautiful and extensive views which I have yet witnessed in old England, that on the top of Bluebell Hill, on the southern escarpment of the chalk ridge, between Maidstone and Chatham, really surpasses all. In one direction the whole extent of country bounded by the Nore and the Isle of Sheppey, with an extensive sea view, was before me, whilst from east to west could be traced the semi-circular direction of the chalk range, from Shakspear's cliff near Dover, to the bold promontory of Beechy Head in the vicinity of Brighton, thus bringing into one view the interesting valley of the Wealden, in which the late Dr. Mantere, and others, made such discoveries in fossil remains, as to throw a flood of light on the geological history of this singular formation. From Bluebell Hill there are unbroken views of land and sea,—with the Midway gracefully winding through the valley,—of fifty or sixty miles.

There is a very singular monument near this spot, called *Kil's Coty House*, consisting of four great stones, taken from the formation below, that is the green sand, or as it is provincially designated, Kentish Rag-stone. Two of them are firmly set in the ground, partly upright, forming two sides, and a third stands in the middle, the fourth,