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A TOUR THROUGH KENT. 1735 by 4 'Cambridge Gentlemen'

Aug : 3. Sunday, we spent at Church, & in walking about Canterbury. On Monday Aug : 4. we took a Coach & 4, & went with a very honest Clergyman<sup>1</sup> to his little Vicarage House in the Isle of Thanet, where we went into the Dove House, killed a Dozen Pigeons, pluckt them, spitted 'em, roasted 'em & eat them ourselves : nor did the Vicar's Wife save her Bacon : for we found a fine Ham, out of the Middle of which we cut several Slices & broiled 'em ; took a Cup of good brown Ale, & a Glass of good Florence : & thus we dined with less Grandeur, but more Freedom than a Duke.

From the Vicarage of Monkton we went to Queax, a good old Seat of Mr. Wyatt ; a Quarter of a Mile from which, in a Walk, is an Arbour in a Tree, from which is a most delightfull View of the Sea, & the Island of Shepey. On a Hill, 2 Miles from hence, near Minster Windmill, is the most extensive Prospect of Land & Sea I ever saw. On the South is a Prospect of Sandwich, Deal, & the Downes : East<sup>2</sup> we see Margate, Shepey, & the Coast of Essex : over the Downes we could see the Chalk Cliffs of Calais.

" By the By, there are no Chalk Cliff[s] at Calais, which is a flat, sandy Shore : the Cliffs of Boulogne are high & chalky. The Altar before which Dean Wotton kneels is a Desk, or Prie-Dieu : an Altar is a flat Table : this is a declined Desk with a Book on it. What he says of Rochester has many Mistakes in it, as also in other Places, which is too troublesome to particularize. W<sup>m</sup>. Cole. June 23. 1775. Milton near Cambridge."

Aug : 5. We went to the Races on Barham Downes, about 4 Miles from Canterbury, and lost some Hours in staring at some Hundreds of People, as idle, & foolishly employed as ourselves. In the Evening we went to the Assembly, where indeed we did not like the Room so well as the Company, which was very good : Lord Winchelsea, Sir Edward Dering, Lord Romney, Sir James Grey, Sir Tho : D'Aeth, Sir W<sup>m</sup>. Knatchbull, cum multis aliis. There are many French & Walloon Families in Canterbury, whose Manufacture is Silk, about 500 Looms being employed in it there.

Aug : 6. We left Canterbury, & came, thro' a Village called Littlebourn, to Wingham, in which Parish is Dean-House, the Seat of Sir George Oxendon : a good old House, & in it many

<sup>1</sup> Peter Vallavine, LL.B., Vicar of Monkton, 1729-67 (ob.) (Hasted, fol. ed. IV, 314).  
<sup>2</sup> An error for " North."

from Essays in Kentish History 1973  
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