

endeavouring, by these natural memorials, to trace the succession of those events of which I had been the witness, and which had preceded the history of their race.*

* The concluding portion of these remarks refers to the changes that have taken place on the Sussex coast, during the historical era. Before the Conquest, the greater part of the little fishing town of Brighthelmston (*Brighthelm's-town*), or Brighton, was situated below the cliffs, on a terrace of beach and sand, now covered by the waves. The Church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, the patron saint of fishermen, was placed on an eminence, that it might serve as a land-mark. The inroads of the sea led to the erection of buildings on the high ground, and its progressive encroachment gradually diminished the area of the ancient town, till at length a sudden inundation, but little more than a century ago, swept away the houses, fortifications, and inclosures, that remained.^a The sea has, therefore, only resumed its former position at the base of the cliffs; the site of the old town having been an ancient bed of shingle, abandoned for ages by the ocean, perhaps contemporaneously with the retreat of its waters from the valley of the Ouse. Should the advancement of the sea be still progressive, Lewes Levels may again become an estuary, and the town of the *Cliff*, and the hamlet of *Landport*, regain the characters from which their names were derived. See page 45.

^a Illustrations of the Geology of Sussex, page 292. Geology of the South-East of England, page 23. Dallaway's Western Sussex, Vol. I. page 55.