

—Strandshall, the *tower on the strand*, viz. Whitby Strand, a large district, whose name survives to our time.

The year 658, according to Young, saw the foundations laid for the first Anglo-Saxon monastery at Streoneshalh, with ten hydes of land for its use, and the saintly Hilda for its abbess. Destroyed by the Danes in 867, it lay desolate for 207 years, and then reappeared on the page of Norman history as the Benedictine Abbey of Whitby, which was surrendered to the crown in 1539. The existing building is for the most part a structure of the early English style (middle of the 13th century). The sandstone of which it is built is not of very good quality, and in this exposed situation it is no wonder if

. . . . . the wasting sea-breeze keen  
Has worn the pillar's carving quaint,  
And moulder'd in his niche the saint ;—

but it is matter of deep regret that the great tower and other conspicuous parts of this magnificent church should have fallen within our own memory.

The vicinity of Whitby is beautiful in all the dales and glens connected with the Esk. In the early part of the present century it was a common enjoyment of the townsfolk to go up the secluded vale of Esk in waggon-parties, and pass many happy hours in the charming scenery about Goadland, Egton Bridge, and the lower end of Glaizedale. The railway to York has rendered these favourite spots more accessible, and opened new views, which have been tastefully described in the elegant volume of the late Mr. Belcher\*.

Whitby, no longer shut out from the rest of Yorkshire, receives annually its share of visitors, for whom a new town (for it is nothing less) has been constructed on the cliffs opposite to the abbey. In the way to the handsome pier, a favourite and healthful walk, is the Whitby Museum, which contains, besides many other choice and rare fossils, very fine saurian remains from the alum shale of the neighbouring cliff at Saltwick.

\* See also Reed's Guide to Whitby.