

5275

KENT COUNTY OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.

MAIDSTONE.

August 8/63

My dear Lydia

I arrived here
all right on Thursday at 4/10 pm.
I had a very comfortable
journey & a beautiful day
for it. Yesterday afternoon
we had a row on the river.
We went as far as Allington
Castle, which is a very pretty
ruin: I intend to go & look
over it some day. I have felt
stronger the last 2 or 3 days &
my cough has been rather better.

Aunts were very sorry to part with me, but luckily John Lees & his wife had arrived in Hyde the day before I left & no doubt they would call at Stratton Lodge on Thursday, so that Aunts would have a little excitement. They have been most liberal & kind to me & on the morning that I left Aunt Charlotte gave me a very nice gold ring with a blood stone set in it, & Aunt Eleonora gave me a gold Albert watch - Chain & Key.

We went to Carisbrook Castle on Tuesday & enjoyed it the day very much. It is a splendid ruin & must have been a very strong place at one time. I expect to leave here next Friday, but I will

write again. Leigh is attending to the out patients as it is their day to day. His rooms are very snug indeed. I sleep in his bed & he goes out as the space ^{by the hospital} bed is being used by one of the patients. Please give my best love to all & thank Mary for the Preston paper she sent me & with love by yourself.

Believe me to remain
Your ever affectionate Brother
Edw Becket

Aunts also gave me altogether £6 in money, so that I shall perhaps be able to get a pretty good English watch with this money & my own watch as well.