

Unbekannt an Werner, Abraham Gottlob Fragment (engl.)

[1] Wednesday September 1 1813. I examined the Chalk Cliffs of Northfleet near G. K. with M^r. Pocock and M^r. Crafter both Inhabitants of G. and fond of Mineralogie _ with whom I passed some pleasant Hours. – The Cliffs are close to the shore of the Thames and from 8 to 100 Engl feet high on the surface is a small stratum of Mould and arable earth of a Foot or two – below this, for a fathom is a stratum of a hard bad chalk of little value being used only as Ballast for Ships intermixed with a species of Flints lying indiscriminately. – Those flints were of a dull colour often with Zones like Onixx and of a different colour from the flints below. Under the hard crust or bad chalk above the Rock to the Bottom was a solid bed of softer chalk having a most remarkable Stratum of the common flint (Pyromachus cretraceus) running horizontally – Mr. Pocock declared the northern half of the county of Kent consisted of Chalk Hills and that in all places hi had visited in Kent this Stratum was horizontally except in going up Chatham Hill where it is to be observed obliquely. _ This stratum lies about 50 feet below the surface and is distinguished by the workmen by the appellation of the Girdle The Nature of this flint is often tinged with whitish spots is of all forms but never met crystallised-but frequently encloses fossils as Echinites, Pectens &ct. Thursday Sept^{br}=2 I Visited G again the Chalk Cliffs at Northfleet I found out a remarkable thick stratum of flint lying under the Stratum I observed yesterday. _ This thick Stratum lies horizontally, and cut obliquely through by a similar Stratum. _ this is called by the workmen Shell flint because it is never seen of great thickness & is evidently broken by compression, for it is a great rarity if a piece can be found Inches square if such is found it is worth as many Six Shillings according M^r. Pocock's saing) being used by Calendars in their Business to give Linnen a polish. There is another use to which flint in general is applied especially that species called the Girdle this is in the article of Porcelain.. _ A few years ago the English East India Company exported to China annually vast quantities of flint from from the parish of Northfleet to make the Chinese porcelain but this now totally discontinued by reason that the English have equalled in that article of Commerce. The flints in the process of digging away the chalk are collected together & conveyed away by Vessels from the Thames , along the Coast of England to the River Humber & disposed to the potteries of Porcelain.

[2] The Mineralogist the Botanist & Agriculturist will find Northfleet a desirable & interesting spot to reside at for a short time. _ as in the space of two Miles he will find both salt fresh and spring water. – Dry and wet Land._ Hill and Dale._ As I have been told the best cultivated Country unequalled and may properly be styled the garden of Engl as the farms are enclosed mostly with Hawthorn Hedges the Cratagus Oxyacontha) which are cut with neatness and seldom suffered to exceed four or five feet high. The chalk Cliffs [a]re] found with organized (fossils) remains which are found collected. at M^r. Pococke of Gravesend who suppyls amateurs with species out of his Cabinet. Northfleet is supposed to have taken its Name at the time when the Danes invaded England one part of their Navy stopping or lying at this Village or part of the river whilst the other part proceeded up a Valley 2 or 3 Miles southward land now nearly dry except a small Rivulet which arises from a spring at its end to a Village called Southfleet _ Southfleet was also once a Roman Station called Vagniacie. The next adjoining Village and Parish is called Swainscombe most probable from Sweyn King of Dannemark who invaded and was crowned King of England and tradition yet says that Sweyn had a Camp here & Castle mad the word Seveyns compe nearly allied to Swainscombe. Northfleet, Southfleet and Swainscombe be Parishes adjoin and lay continous on the west to the Town of Gravesend where an Alien Office established by the British Government, To this office alle Aliens entering in the Kingdom by the river Thames must repaire, give in their Names and wait in the Town untill a Passport from London arrives for permission to visit the Capital . _ Here we meet our Countryman & other Nations, and permission is giv[en] to walk about, I got the permission to live up in the Country & took a lodging on a most dilightfull Hill which commands an extensive view of the river Thames from the Sea at its entrance to Hills up the Valley beyond Lon[don] whilst a great part of the Counties of Kent & Essex are seen surrounding, loaded luxurantly with Crops of various hues, that fills the mind with pleasure and admiration. Gravesend is governed by by a Corporation of 36 Persons & the chief magistrate is styled Mayor.It is of M^r Pocock I have gained these informations.

Bemerkungen