

## **Comment by Hall Caine about Birchington**

"Birchington was not a holiday resort in those days. It was merely an old-fashioned Kentish settlement on the edge of a hungry coast. The village stood back from the shore the better part of a mile. It consisted of a quaint Gothic church, grey and green, a winding street, a few shops and a windmill. The bungalow we were going to live in stood alone on the bare fields to the seaward side.

"The land around was flat and featureless, unbroken by a tree or a bush and one felt as if the great sea in front, rising up to the horizon in a vast round hill, dominated and threatened to submerge it."

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Written to a friend by Hall Caine, soon after Rossetti's stay in Birchington (5<sup>th</sup> Feb to 9<sup>th</sup> April 1882. He died in Birchington on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 1882.