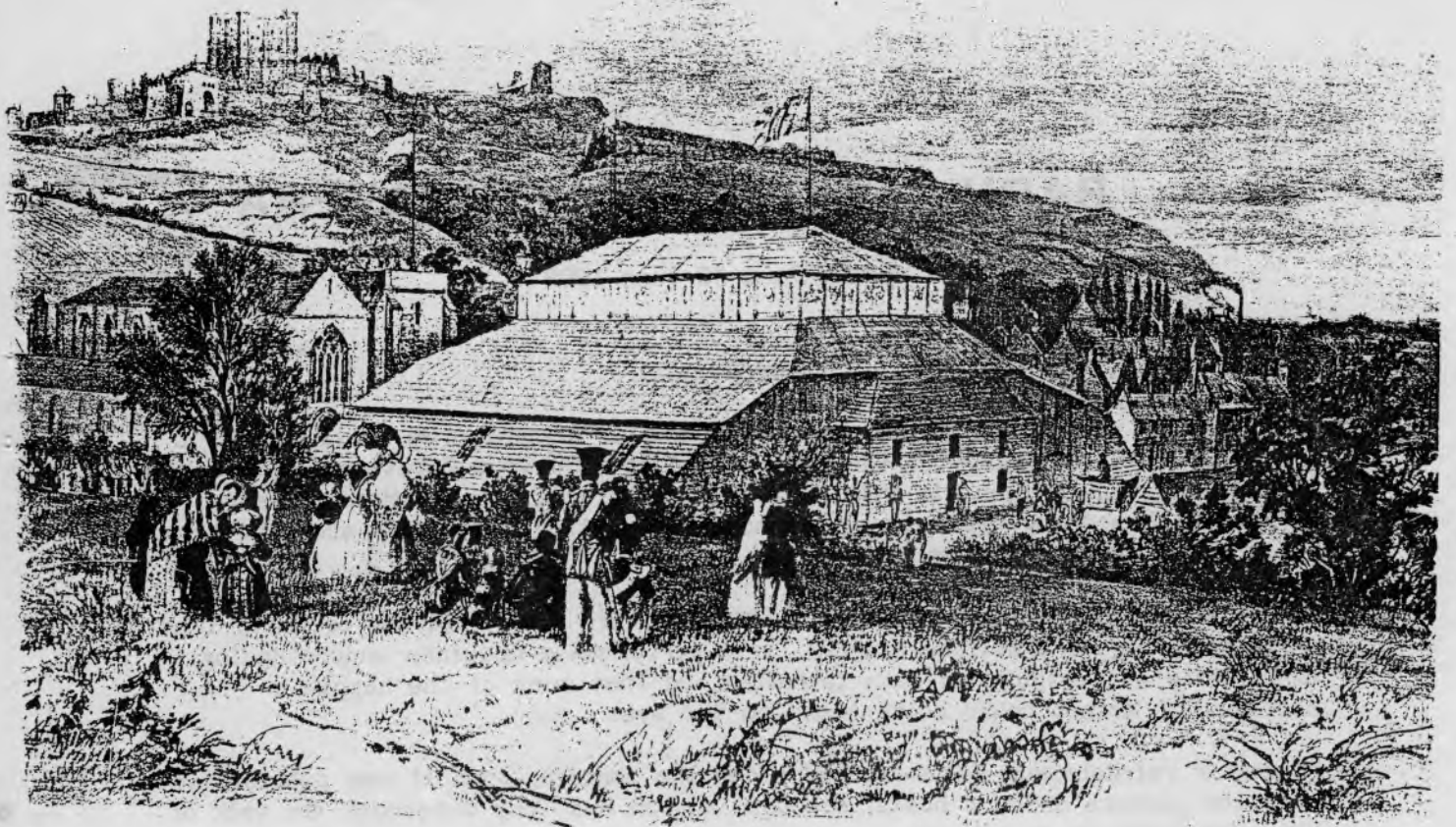




Picture from Dover Library Collection. Contact Reference Librarian, KEITH HOWELL, for information.

VISIT TO ROCHESTER June 10

About twenty five years ago, when I finished my schooling in Rochester, I left a rather sad and crumbling town. Many of the High Street shops were boarded-up and decaying. Buildings were being demolished and neglected.

On a sunny day on 25th June this year, I returned with members of the Society to a quite different town. I particularly wanted us to visit Rochester because of the parallels that I saw between the two towns. About ten years ago, a positive initiative to promote tourism was taken - Rochester faced many problems with local industries declining and the closure of the dockyard. With its castle, beautiful cathedral and historic and Dickensian connections, tourism was the obvious choice. It has taken several years to transform a sad neglected town into a delightful place to visit. The High Street is full of individual, interesting and prosperous small businesses, buildings restored and cared for.

Hopefully we will achieve the same - it may take a few years but "Rome wasn't built in a day"!

Lin Clackett

P.S. Our thanks to the City of Rochester Society who provided two excellent guides.