

CHAPTER VII.

Bayeux — The Tapestry — The Cathedral — The Canon of Cambremer's Ride — Danish Language at Bayeux — Specimen of the Patois of the Bessin — Norman Love of Litigation — Journey to St. Lo.

A TEDIOUS and uninteresting drive of three hours and a half brought us to Bayeux. The country through which we passed is of the same description with that on the other side of Caen — open for the most part, level, and poor-looking. Nor, at first sight, does the town appear to offer much, besides its curious cathedral, to compensate the traveller for the dull monotony of its environs.

A more mature investigation, however, will discover that Bayeux, though it cannot boast the middle-age splendour of Rouen, or the architectural riches and beauty of Caen, has yet claims to attention and interest. Before La Jeune France was born or thought of, old France recognized Bayeux as the capital of the Bessin; and the metropolitan of Rouen