

CHAPTER VIII.

St. Lo — The Haras — Pleasing Mode of collecting a Poor-Rate — Fruit Market — High Mass — Valley of the Vire — Haymaking — Huguenots at St. Lo — St. Lo in Froissart's Time — Journey to Coutances — Musical Dinner Party — Women of Coutances — Les Piliers — The Cathedral — View from the Tower — Heauteville — Hambye — Percé — Villedien — Controversy on the Origin of the Pointed Arch — Geoffry de Montbray.

St. Lo is a pretty, quiet, unpretending, clean, little town, with an old church, once a cathedral; an old ruin, once a castle; and a "haras," which was once a convent.

"Tempora mutantur; nos et mutemur in illis" has apparently been the motto of the inhabitants of St. Lo.

Our first stroll through the town chanced to bring us to the "haras," which is situated at one end of the "cours," or promenade, a luxury with which almost all French towns are graced. Our attention was attracted by some old grey walls, with arched doors and windows, and a little "jardin Anglais" in front of them. We inquired of an old