

TENBY, SOUTH WALES.

ters, the provisions of which were confirmed by Richard III. and succeeding monarchs. It is said to have been originally colonised from Flanders, and in ancient times to have been occupied as a fishing town by the Britons. Under the Tudors it rose to considerable importance as a military station and commercial depôt; but its walls and castle fell into ruin, and its trade decayed. During its transition period it sank into comparative insignificance, and so changed from a military station under Queen Bess to a watering-place under Queen Victoria.

The Castle, an ivy-covered ruin on a height above the sea, retains sufficient of its former proportions to indicate its old strength. Its situation was admirably adapted for defence: occupying the extreme point of the promontory, it was secured by inaccessible rocks on every side except that facing the town, which was strengthened by art. It is probable that the structure was founded by the Anglo-Normans. In their wars with the Welsh princes, the castle became a frequent point of attack. It was taken by Meredydd and Rhys (1151), who put the garrison to the sword in consequence of their having sheltered some inhabitants of Tenby who had the year before attacked and wounded Cadell, their brother, while on a hunting excursion in the neighbourhood. A few years later it was invested by Maelgwn with an overwhelming force, by whom the place was taken and the works demolished. The ruins of this ancient fortress are remarkably interesting, and the whole neighbourhood abounds with romantic spots, all more or less associated with events in its past history. Immediately to the seaward of Tenby are some insulated rocks of wild and picturesque appearance, which exhibit curious excavations. Some of these are accessible on foot at low water: this is the case with the small rock called St. Catherine's, contiguous to the town, which in one direction has been perforated quite through by the repeated action of the tides.

Altogether, considering its eligible position, its excellent beach, fine sea, noble views, and numberless points of interest, Tenby is certainly one of the most beautiful of our English watering-places, and well deserves the rising popularity which it enjoys.

THE CASTLE OF CHAMBORD.

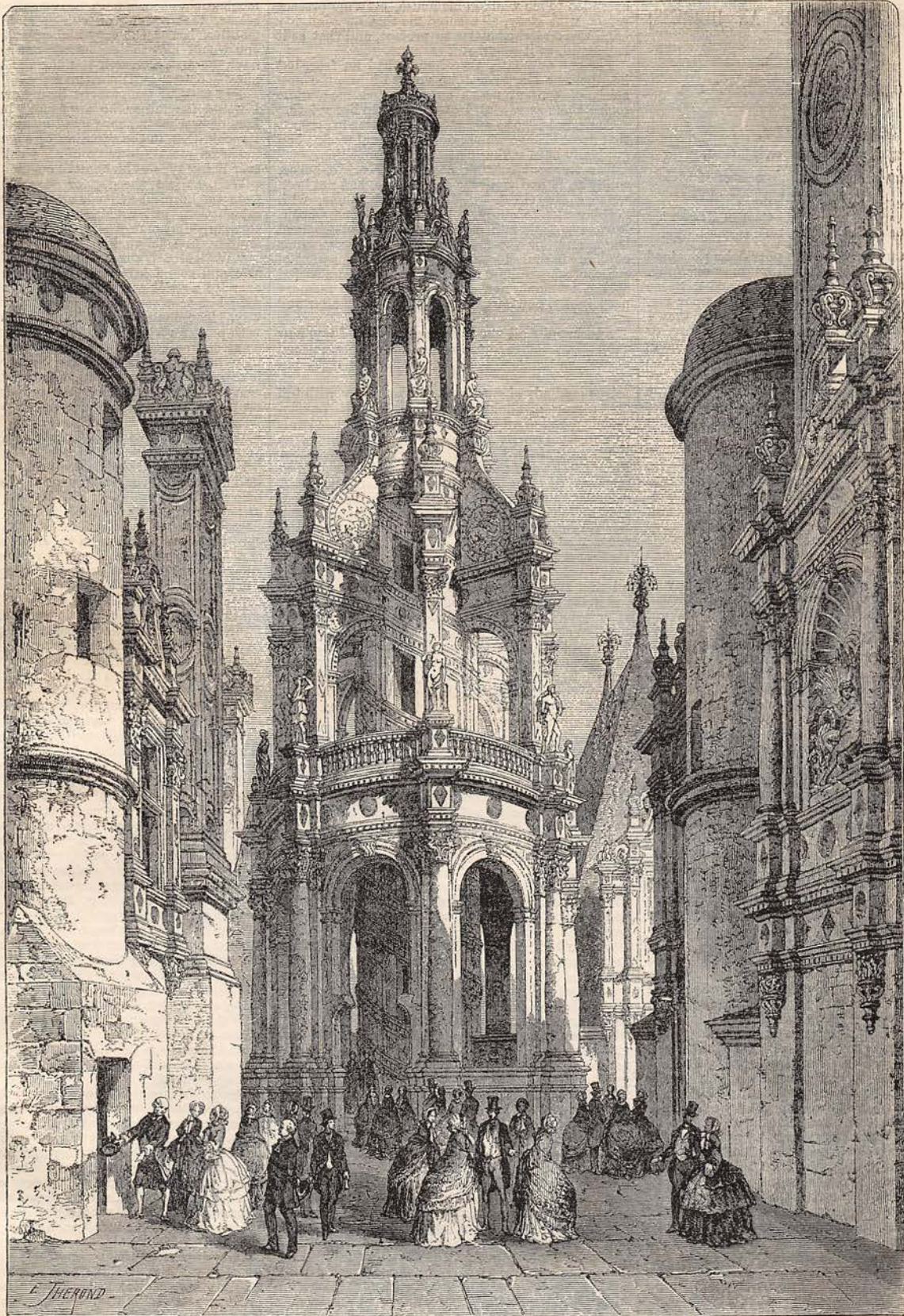
ALMOST everybody is attracted by a regal dwelling, and, whether it be a royal residence of modern or of ancient times, there is an interest belonging to it which attaches to no other edifice. How many thousands flock to Hampton Court to inspect those long suites of rooms once tenanted by King William and Queens Mary and Anne! How many visit the old banqueting-hall, with its stained glass and armorial bearings, erected by a cardinal and presented to a king—the richest present subject ever offered to a monarch! How many run down to Windsor to look through the State apartments of the Castle, to gaze with admiration on the splendid pictures on the walls, and to speculate on what must be the gorgeous appearance of the rooms when the carpets are laid down, the furniture uncovered, and the chandeliers unveiled!

The interest felt by the people in royal palaces is shared by our neighbours over the water. For example, there is an inconsiderable village, in the department Loir-et-Cher, on the Cossin, ten miles from Blois. Chambord—such is the name of the village—owes all its importance to the neighbouring royal castle, one of the most magnificent and best preserved in France. Surrounded by woodland scenery, buried in the heart of a thick forest, Chambord presents a strikingly picturesque aspect—its towers, turrets, and minarets of black stone conveying to the visitor the impression of solemnity and grandeur.

Chambord was originally a hunting lodge; but Francis, passionately devoted to the chase, selected the site for a palace, surrounding the building with a noble park, watered by the Cossin. He was thus able to indulge his favourite pursuit of hunting without suffering the inconvenience of a mere hunting lodge, and could enjoy, like Henry VIII. at Windsor, the grandeur of the palace without sacrificing the pleasures of country life. For twelve years eighteen hundred workmen were employed in constructing this splendid edifice, which was further enlarged by Henry II., and completed by Louis XIV. Here it was that the Emperor Charles V. was sunn-

tuously entertained by Francis I.; here many a royal feast was held by succeeding monarchs; here, for nine years, dwelt Stanislaus Leczinsky, king of Poland; and here Marshal Saxe, to whom the castle was assigned by Louis XV., resided in kingly splendour. At the outbreak of the first Revolution, the people seized upon the building, its spacious apartments were stripped of every valuable, and the magnificent furniture was sold by auction. The castle was subsequently granted to Marshal Berthier by the first Napoleon, and, being sold in 1820, was bought by subscription for the Duke of Bordeaux. The present aspirant to the throne of France, grandson of Charles X., bears the title of Count de Chambord; that he, however, will ever re-establish the old régime is most improbable, and as it is well-known that the malignity of the Bourbon party to England is far greater than that of the Napoleon family, few Englishmen can wish success to the intrigues of the "old party."

Notwithstanding the vicissitudes it has undergone, Chambord is one of the noblest specimens of the Renaissance, or revival of art in France. Its lofty donjon, spiral staircase, spacious apartments, and magnificent chapel, are in excellent preservation, and attract a large number of visitors. That portion of the "royal house" represented in our engraving is probably the most interesting of the whole edifice. It is called the lantern, and has elicited the warmest approbation of artists and architects. "The four towers of the donjon," says Blondel, "are each sixty feet in diameter. In the middle of the edifice rises a fifth tower, thirty feet in diameter and one hundred in height, which gives, very ingeniously, a pyramidal form to the structure." This fifth tower is the lantern, shown in our illustration. The lantern and the spiral staircase leading to its summit received some injuries during the frenzy of the first Revolution, but these were not so serious as to detract from the extreme beauty of the structure. The view commanded from the summit extends far over the surrounding country; the umbrageous forest stretching far away like a sea of foliage, giving glimpses here and there of the winding Cossin and the country road. A visit to Chambord



THE LANTERN OF THE CASTLE OF CHAMBORD, NEAR BLOIS, FRANCE.

amply repays the traveller; there is much in the ancient building to gratify all tastes; and the park and forest offer some charming prospects to the admirer of woodland scenery. And here, in meditative mood, we may moralise on the vanity of human grandeur. Here King Francis and a brilliant

retinue have come a-hunting many a time, and ridden to yonder gorgeous house when the purple twilight deepened into night. What changes have occurred since that time! How often that old castle has changed masters! The old line of kings has ended, and France has started afresh with a his-

tory dating from '89. A new dynasty has begun, more brilliant and glorious than that of the old régime. So Fortune turns her wheel; so shift the scenes on the world's stage; the actors, great and small, play their parts and disappear—*vanitas vanitatum!*