

railway runs through a field of corn or stubble, dotted with apple-trees, without any hedge or protection. Through such fields and between the tree-covered hills, the train reaches Evreux, a pleasant, peaceful Norman town fairly embedded among the hills, with orchards and gardens surrounding it on all sides, and its three brown cathedral towers soaring above everything.

Conches is a compact little street of quaint houses on a gentle, wooded slope. This street is generally one busy market-place from end to end, crowded with white-capped women and bronzed-faced villagers in cool-looking blouses of every shade of blue, and loose and baggy enough to satisfy the contemporary connoisseur in coats. Piles of green vegetables and luscious fruits, and every other eatable and non-eatable commodity, are arranged on stalls, on the ground—anywhere in fact—even packed closely against the hoary church of Ste. Foy, with its simple yet exquisite west portal, all covered with golden mosses and lichens. So closely packed are the marketers round the door of this church, that it is quite an undertaking to enter the building. It is worth the push, however, as, not to mention the brilliant stained glass, there is a sacristy doorway in the chancel the like of which we have not beheld before nor since, so exquisite is its design, moulding, and enrichment; its wrought oaken door, and grotesques and monstrosities generally, which peer out of entwined vine-leaves, carved in such a manner as only the Norman flamboyant carvers could carve. On the terrace there was for a long time a dismantled gargoyle—a huge granite monster, fully seven or eight feet in length, with his back all scalloped out, and a glorious snarl upon his not over-lovely countenance.

A word as to gargoyles. The Norman gargoyle is a curious animal that haunts the parapets and copings of the grandiose cathedral and humble village church, where he luxuriates and at times multiplies exceedingly. His family include many varieties, from simple chamfered blocks of granite to elaborately carved animals, whose cast of countenance resembles, at times, devils, serpents, and dogs—more especially the latter. His size varies, but he occasionally attains a growth of seven or eight feet in length, and is in general longer and larger than his English relatives. When, however, he stretches his neck so far, he frequently over-reaches himself and tumbles to the ground.