

do state, without fear of contradiction, that at that remote period there existed many Abbés whose appetite was not satisfied merely from inhaling the steam of a boiled chicken. Some of those feudal land owners were right good fellows. It is recorded that before the year 1450, the peasantry of Vaulx, in Normandy, residing within five miles of the Abbey of the Holy Trinity of Caën, were annually treated, on the *fête* of the Holy Trinity, to a substantial repast within the walls of the Monastery. The *carte de cuisine* stood thus: "they were first to wash their hands (not altogether a superfluous preliminary for labouring men); then all sat down, a cloth was spread before them; to each was served out a small loaf of bread weighing from twenty to twenty-two ounces, a square piece of pork six inches long, after which came a slice of grilled ham (*lard rousé sur le gril*), a pannikin of bread and milk, and cider and cervoise *ad libitum* during a four hours sitting. With such royal cheer and such considerate masters it is not at all surprising to hear a King of France—Louis X.—in 1315, after publishing edicts to liberate his subjects from the feudal servitude, complain that some of his people, being *ill advised*, preferred to remain as they were to becoming free. A learned writer, Delisle, from these and other instances, concludes that several of the customs which now appear to us as the most obnoxious, were the very ones which in the feudal times were considered the lightest, as their performance was attended with no trouble. And to this class belonged the famous *Droit de Grenouillage*, the subject of Messrs. Dupin and Michelet's irreverent mirth. These writers had furbished up some old worm eaten charters on whose authority they charged the landed aristocracy of the middle ages of being in the habit of compelling their serfs to turn out on the wedding night of the Lord of the Manor, to beat the frog ponds in order that his Lordship's rest might not be disturbed by the noisy croakings of the frogs; and what was worse in the eyes of Veuillot, certain jolly Friars, such as the Abbé de Luxeuil and the Abbé de Prüm, stood also charged with having required the performance of this sardanapalian service (not of course on their wedding night, for none but bad Abbés married in those times), but whenever they resided in their domains, as the following lines showed:—

Pâ ! Pâ ! rainotte, Pâ ! (silence, frogs, silence !)

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delivered to the Lord of the Manor of East Carlton, who is to convey them to the King.

At the coronation of James II. the Lord of the Manor of Heydon, in Essex, claimed to hold the *basin and ewer* to the King by virtue of one moiety, and the *towel* by virtue of the other moiety of the same manor, whenever the King washed before dinner, but the claim was allowed only as to the towel.