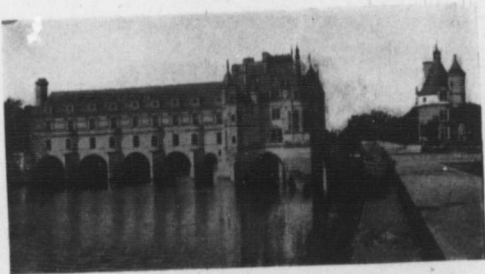


luxury-loving kings of France, have spoken in praise of Chenonceaux, the visitor will come prepared to admire it, nor will he be disappointed, for, while not one of the large or grand chateaux, it is one of the most attractive. The little village in which it is situated and through which one passes to reach it from the railway station is a charming one; it is composed of one long street bordered with tiny houses, each one of which has its garden so lavishly supplied with roses that they overflow into the roadside and tempt the passer-by. After a walk of about a mile, with probably a halt for dinner at the Hotel du Bon Laboureur, you see the turrets of the chateau peeping through the trees at the end of a long avenue of oak and ash. Lying in the lovely valley of the Cher, removed from the traffic of great thoroughfares, it probably owes its immunity from the furies of the Revolution to its isolated position, and to-day it remains as picturesque as ever, with all its former glory of pointed turrets, spires and perpendicular roof-tops undimmed, but rather mellowed by the passage of ages.

At the right of the entrance to the chateau proper still stands the tower, which was a part of the establishment of feudal days, but which now is used as a place for the tourists to inscribe their names in the visitors' book and buy picture postcards and other souvenirs. One enters the precincts of the chateau itself by a drawbridge, over a moat, formed by an arm of

the Cher. Thus it is completely surrounded by water, and is like an island-chateau in the midst of the rapidly-running Cher. Round about a gentle meadow and a great park, give it a beautiful setting. On the southern side of the chateau a bridge was built over the river, forming a beautiful promenade, and leading to the other bank, whence one could get a charming view of the turrets and spires of the chateau. Later a covering, matching in style and beauty the rest of the structure, was built over this bridge, thus forming a veritable house over the water and adding a



THE CHATEAU AT CHENONCEAUX.

spacious wing of two stories to the original building, the lower one being called the "Long Gallery," and being used as a banqueting hall.

It is this gallery over the river which is the distinctive feature of Chenonceaux. The name usually given to it is "Diana's Folly," so called because the fair chatelaine, Diana de Poitiers, the favorite first of Francis I., and later of his son Henry II., originated the idea of the bridge over the river, though it was Catherine de Medici who had it roofed over.

That Diana should be the possessor