

"Human ingenuity, aided by fiends, never invented more terrible places for the torment of human beings. * * * *
 He caused the victims sent him by the King to be placed on a trap-door, through which they fell, striking on wheels armed with sharp points and cutting edges ; others he stifled by closing up all air to their dungeons, or tied stones about their necks and made walk into a deep and filthy pool he had provided for the purpose. * * * * There were five ranks of chambers, only differing one from the other in its horrors. The most dreadful were those known as the 'iron cages,' six feet by eight, composed of strong wood and lined with iron plates. These were invented by Louis XI., who had two built at Loches, in which Ludovico, Duke of Milan, was confined, and in which he ended his days. Louis XII., while Duke of Orleans, was also confined in one of these iron cages. The second rank of chambers for cruelty were in the top of the towers ; in these rooms a man could not stand upright, and the windows admitting light and air were pierced through the ten feet walls, and were obstructed by several rows of grates. In many cases the outer window-grates were covered with cloth and also darkened by window-shutters, fixed in such a manner that all view was intercepted from the prisoner, These in summer were insufferably hot, and in winter piercing cold. The dungeons under the towers were filled with mud, from which exhaled the most offensive odors, and which were over-run with toads, newts, rats, and spiders."

"With spiders I had friendship made,
 And watch'd them in their sullen trade,
 Had seen the mice by moonlight play,
 And why should I feel less than they ?
 We were all inmates of one place,
 And I, the monarch of each race,
 Had power to kill—yet, strange to tell !
 In quiet we had learned to dwell—
 My very chains and I grew friends,
 So much a long communion tends
 To make us what we are."