

On those days the stops now used almost every where for breakfast had not reached France and therefore I was compelled to help the swallowing up of ham and bread with a few glasses of wine, but remained far behind my brother traveller, who seemed to relish still better and better each successive bumper which he swallowed. But the volatility of the liquor had not apparently any effect on his taciturnity and very few words excepted, our time at least on his part, was entirely spent on the present business, which done we resumed our seats in the chaise and our journey onwards.

In this silent manner we proceeded until at last we reached the capital of the Province famous for its Ste. Ampoule and for being the place where the Kings of France used to be anointed and crowned. There again we alighted and ordered the best dinner the Inn at which we stopped could afford, for I have always remarked that at those places the worst fare is always the dearest. We were soon summoned to sit in judgment on the culinary skill of the Cook and on the contents of the cellar and to be sure both were sanctioned by the manner in which we went on the trial. Here the features of my fellow traveller began to relax and his tongue to be loosed, for he favoured me now and then not only with a tolerable benignant look, but also, when his jaws were at liberty, with a few words here and there, which convinced me that he might, if he would, be a pleasant companion enough.

Our refreshment completed we continued our progress towards the south and nothing happening to stop us we safely reached our evening station, at which we resolved to take a hearty parting kiss, not on, but of the neck of the beautifully elongated neck of the bottle of the Country. The effect of that third *tête à tête*, was that conviviality was complete and reserve was entirely left behind when we resumed our seats in the carriage, resolved as we were to go on during the night in order to reach Paris early in the morning, and in consequence he carefully primed his pistols and I tried how easy my sword could be drawn out of the scabbard. Thank God however these precautions were found useless, for saving some