

Story of Rouen

Dent - The Story of Rouen , Sir Theodore Andrea Cook



Description: -
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Notes: Previous ed: 1899.
This edition was published in 1901



Filesize: 58.110 MB

Tags: #Rouen, #France #History, #Photos, #Stories, #News, #Genealogy, #Postcards

Rouen, France History, Photos, Stories, News, Genealogy, Postcards

Mellon still exists, then up a long and steep hill, on whose very summit is a village street with a broad iron railing that opens to your right into a pretty avenue of limes, with the worn steps of an old stone cross or fountain to the left of the church inside. Ouen, along the street called Eau de Robec to the boulevards.

The story of Rouen

Upon the sound he offered up a prayer and died. The acts in which these orders were carried out continue very frequent, even in the first half of the sixteenth century, and especially in the parish of Octeville.

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At this first procession in 1079 both William the Conqueror and his wife assisted. He was not only the strongest of the dukes of Normandy, he was also one of the world's greatest men, whose work was not only thorough at the moment, but effective for all time; whose purpose was fixed, and whose iron will none could gainsay. There is an extremely fine impression in wax of one of Richard Cœur de Lion's seals in the archives of Rouen, which is one of the few still existing in which he is represented on one side as the King sitting upon the throne of England, and on the other as the Duke of Normandy riding in full armour against his foes.

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He naturally lost both, at the battle of Tinchebray, where Henri Beauclerc won Normandy, and beat the Normans with his English soldiers. But the people never forgot the Pretextatus who lived for centuries in their memory as a martyred saint. The buildings that have so long outlived their inhabitants may be taken as the background—like the permanent stone scenery in a Greek theatre—to the shifting kaleidoscope of many-coloured life in the old city.

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The strength of his arms, for which he was famous, was proved very early, when the chivalry of France went down before his boyish lance at Val-

ès-Dunes. Catherine's hill, above the town, and the monks came to Quévilly, where the Carthusians had already settled themselves when the English turned them out of the Chartreuse de la Rose, which was the headquarters of our Henry the Fifth during his siege of Rouen early in the fifteenth century. Many a castle and cathedral alike owed its existence to their loans.

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Then began another act in this dark drama, which ended very differently to the expectations of Fredegond. This was the Rouen which welcomed Charlemagne in 769, who came to celebrate Easter in the Cathedral he was to benefit so largely, among the canons who had only been organised into a regular chapter, living in one community, about nine years before. The sign of the Barde or Barge Royale, now in the Musée des Antiquités is the only remnant of the Templars left in Rouen.

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