NORMANDY, ITS GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY: AS ILLUSTRATED BY TWENTY-FIVE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM BUILDINGS IN ROUEN, CAEN, MANTES, BAYEAUX, AND FALAISE; A SKETCH

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F. G. STEPHENS

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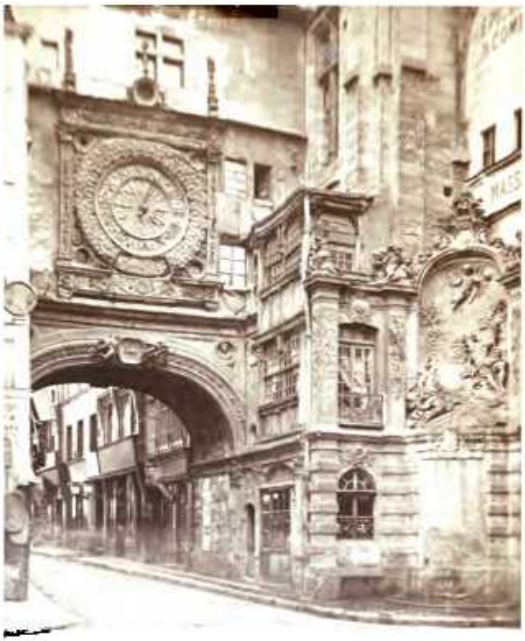

Port de la Grosse Horloge, Rouen.

Normandy,

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A SKETCH;

BY F. G. STEPHENS.

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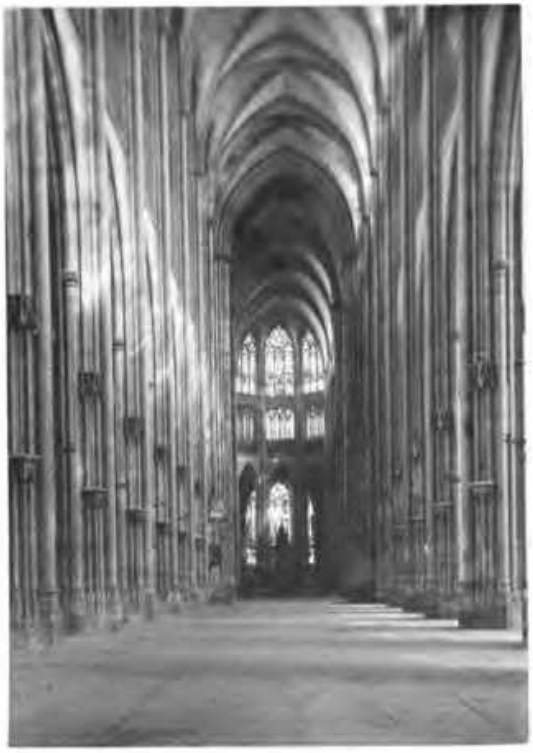

Church of St. Ouen, Interior, Rouen.

Normandy for Eleven Hundred Years.

IT will serve to introduce the main subject of our remarks to the reader if we recall to his mind, in the briefest terms, some of the most important events in the history of the land known to us under the name of Normandy, selecting those events which have, more or less directly, influenced even the details of the buildings photographically illustrated in the following pages. Little is known of the country ere Cæsar found all France divided among various branches of the Kymric family of the Celtic race; some of these branches gave the names they bore to the chief cities of the province, and are still held in memory by designations which are presented to us in but slightly altered forms; thus, the city of the Baiocasses is still Bayeux, that of the Lexiovii is still Lisieux. Relics of the early worship of these nations exist in many parts of France; Britany, that neighbouring and long-ago subject province to Normandy, is peculiarly rich in such; for examples, there are—1, the great dolmen, styled *Pierre Levée*, near Poitiers; 2, the stone-chest, known as the *Maison des Fées*, which is near Saumur; and, 3, the famous ruins of Carnac, Morbihan, Britany.

The tribes inhabiting Normandy and part of Britany, terrified, it may be, by the utter extermination of their neighbours the Nervii, submitted to Cæsar. Some of these tribes, or their members, probably shared in the resistance of the Veniti and were effectually admonished by the ruin of their fleet at the mouth of the Loire in the year 56 B.C. It cannot be supposed that so wealthy a province as that of Normandy was peopled less thickly than others in Gaul, especially when it is recollected that the men of the western provinces had, long before this time, invaded the seats of their ancient brethren in Britain and driven them away from many