THE CATHEDRAL OF NOTRE DAME, PARIS.

This celebrated Cathedral, the oldest religious edifice in Paris, is generally supposed to have been founded in 1010, by Robert the Devout, son of Hugh Capet, on the site of an old church, built about 522, under the reign of Childebert I. which was itself erected on the ruins of a temple dedicated to Jupiter, Castor and Pollux, built under the reign of Tiberius, as appears from some curious stones dug up in 1711, in the Choir of Notre Dame. The present building was continued under successive bishops and not completed till after the lapse of three centuries.

The interior of this noble edifice corresponded with the simple grandeur of its general appearance. Being the Cathedral of Paris, it was a favorite object of the munificence of the Kings, as well as of the corporation and fraternities of that city.

Though most of the numerous relics disappeared at the revolution, the Choir is still magnificent. The modern ornaments, by the Decottes, finished in 1714, are very splendid. The Stalls on each side of the Choir, especially the two appropriated to the Archbishop, and adorned with some of the finest paintings of the French school, are of exquisite workmanship. In the sanctuary were the regalia of Charlemagne, and the splendid robes made for the clergy at the coronation of Napoleon, which continued to be worn on grand occasions after the Restoration.

The Vignettes represent two of the numerous Fountains with which Paris is adorned.