

yourself can testify. The archives have been in our library for the last thirty years to save them from the damp and from the vermin."

Search for Documents.

Next day, with the prior's permission, Courtballes began a systematic investigation of the archives as far as they related to the ancient history of Castle Ker-Guivarch and its owners. After wading through miles of documents, he at last discovered the specifications of the architect who rebuilt the castle for Robert de Raveneau, Seigneur de Ker-Guivarch, toward the end of the seventeenth century. In the estimate a thousand francs were set down for the benefit of a certain Italian mechanic, "who fixed the moving platform on the balcony in the Louis XI. tower."

Courtballes looked up the record of the said Sir Robert, and found that he bore the reputation of a cruel and crafty lord, who was the terror of his enemies and subjects alike. While he held forth at Castle Ker-Guivarch, his residence was known as the "house of mysterious disappearances," and twice Sir Robert had been summoned before the King to defend himself against charges of murder—the murder of men high in office, who were known to have been at Castle Ker-Guivarch, but never returned. However, nothing could be proved against him.

Now, after centuries, Courtballes held the murderer's last will and testament in his hand, which, according to the testator's provisions must be communicated to every successive head of the Raveneau family. Its main article read as follows:

It Tells the Tale.

For the benefit of myself and my successors, I have constructed, in the balcony of the Louis XI. tower of my good Castle of Ker-Guivarch, a death trap, viz., a moving platform. One flagstone