

FRENCH CASTLES OF THE LOIRE VALLEY:

The Loire River in France, stretching east from the Atlantic Ocean half way across the country, was a natural barrier in the wars between the English and the French, and castles were built at strategic points along the river to prevent passage by the English armies.

This illustrated lecture describes the development of these *chateaux* and their many military and decorative features, and recounts the concurrent social and political history.