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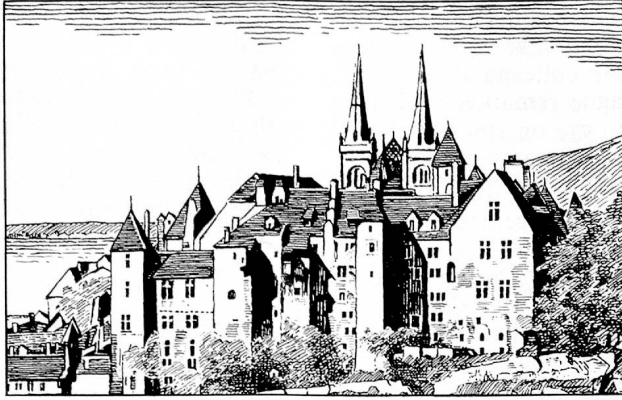
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SWISS CATHEDRALS



NEUCHÂTEL: THE COLLEGIATE

If the Collegiate Church and the Castle with the tower of Diesse and that of the Penitentiary nobly represent the Middle Ages, no other part of the town traces its origin before the end of the 15th Century, and the vestiges of the 16th are few, several fires having caused havoc within its walls, notably in 1269, 1450, 1526 and 1714.

The town took birth around its castle and only extended in the 14th Century by the construction of the new town—the Neubourg (Neuenburg). No other building contributes in giving to the silhouette of the town of Neuchâtel a character more picturesque than the imposing castle with its numerous towers, ancient residence of the counts and princes of Neuchâtel, today the seat of the cantonal authorities.

The council chamber, of modern

construction, takes up the place of the ancient cloister it has an exit to the cloister of the 15th Century, restored in 1870, and adjoining the collegiate church founded by Ulrich II, in the 12th Century and enlarged a century later.

One of the two towers and the spires were only added at the time of the restoration of 1870. One of the portals is ornamented with the statues of St. Peter and St. Paul.

In the interior, Count Louis, has had erected to the memory of his family, in 1372, a remarkable cenotaph adorned of 15 rigid and imposing statues dating of the 13th Century; three of them, those of the counts of Fribourg and of Hochberg, were added in the 15th.

One of the pillars in the nave bears an inscription recalling the 23rd of October, 1530, the day that decided the establishment of the Reformation in Neuchâtel. (P.S.)



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