

COMMENCEMENT OF RENAISSANCE 21

were set out, serving to show that the early painters were frequently compelled to restrain their own impulses, and to produce exactly what was demanded of them. Charonton, however, produced one of the historic works of the French school. The "Triumph of the Virgin" is essentially a French production, and its extraordinary qualities show how undeservedly the school had been overlooked until quite recently by the historians of art. Charonton was born about 1410, and at Laon, as is shown by the contract for the "Triumph of the Virgin," in which he is described as a native of that city. In 1447 he began to work at Avignon, and appears to have found abundant employment; he is known to have been comfortably established and married, and to have been there still in 1461. A curious connection between Fouquet and Charonton can be traced in their method of treating a cherub; in both the Antwerp Madonna of the former and the Villeneuve-les-Avignon picture they are red. Charonton appears to have carried out his agreement for the painting of this picture fairly faithfully. In a few details he has deviated from the actual letter of the contract, but these few alterations were, no doubt, decided upon after consulting his patron. Even in the dismal and