

3. STORIES OF THE FRENCH ARTISTS

appearance of having been executed at the same time, as distinct hands are observable. On the one hand there is a series of portraits of celebrated persons, dating from 1560 to 1567, quite worthy to be ranked with the best we know of Clouet; on the other a number of drawings of inferior quality, and some of these happens to be signed "Benjamin Boulon." Mr. Bouchot was, doubtless, quite right in guessing that this is in reality some other than Benjamin Boulon. If any further evidence is needed that the earlier specimens are the work of Clouet, it is to be found in the fact that the names of the sitters are written in the margins of the drawings, and these are all details of which the artist would have been drawn after Francis I. The portraits of the hands of the artist, and the names of the sitters of

The artist's name, *Benjamin Boulon*, of *Benneville de Lyons*, who is supposed to be the contemporary portrait painter, appears to have been similar. They made sketches of notable persons of whom they might be called upon from time to time to make portraits, and from these memoranda they were able to make as many portraits as might be desired without requiring more than a few sittings.