

28 STORIES OF THE FRENCH ARTISTS

in French art. Under Louis XII his merits do not seem to have attracted much attention, for we find Bourdichon and Perréal receiving 240 livres as their annual wage, whilst he had only 160. The origin of Clouet is still unknown. It is probable from a study of his works that he was a Fleming. But it must not be forgotten that but a few years since Fouquet was also believed to be a Fleming, and treated as a direct disciple of van Eyck. We know that Clouet was in the service of Francis I in 1516 from a document relating to the king's household now in the national library. After the death of Bourdichon in 1521 his name was changed from Jamet to Jehannet, and he held with Perréal the first place among the portrait painters to the king, his salary being at the same time raised to 240 livres. After 1525 he held the first place to the prejudice of Perréal himself. Soon after this the name of a new-comer, Petit-Jean Champion, is found in the king's accounts, but to-day no trace of his works is to be discovered. He was evidently a painter of considerable repute or he would never have been so prominently mentioned. After 1528 Perréal disappeared, and Jehannet and Champion were left alone; and some five years later an interesting change occurred, which serves to show how the