

queens who succeeded each other on the throne of France, learned this truth by dear experience. What was said of one of the last may be applied to a great many of them : " Queens have been seen weeping just like ordinary women and tears have been noticed even in the eyes of kings."

The saintly Jane of Valois was born in 1464 and had as parents Louis XI and Charlotte of Savoy. From infancy she gave tokens of tender piety, and conjectures might even then have been made as to the height of sanctity she would one day attain. At the age of five, burning with the desire of doing something to increase the glory of the Blessed Virgin, she merited to learn that, before her death, she would found a religious order in honor of the Mother of God. This prediction filled her soul with consolation and was often the subject of her conferences with Saint Francis of Paula whom she used to meet at her father's court.

Political views, rather than taste or personal inclination, very often regulate the marriages of princes. Louis XI wishing his daughter to marry the Duke of Orleans, who afterwards reigned under the name of Louis XII, Jane, stifling the intense repugnance she felt for this union, yielded to her father's desire. But the alliance proved unfortunate, and Louis, on his side, always declared he had espoused her against his will and solely through fear of the king, her father. When, after the death of Charles VIII, he found himself in peaceable possession of the French throne, he publicly avowed his sentiments concerning the marriage, demanding its dissolution from Alexander VI who was then Sovereign Pontiff. After mature examination of the matter, the papal commissioners declared in favor of the king and pronounced the marriage null. This sentence, instead of afflicting the unfortunate queen, was received by her with a serene countenance and elicited from her no other words than : " May God be praised ! Since He has permitted this trial, I know it is for the sake of enabling me to serve Him better than in the past."

To the princess thus repudiated, the king gave the duchy of Berri as her portion. She withdrew to the city of Bourges and applied more zealously than ever to works