

18 STORIES OF THE FRENCH ARTISTS

picture painted and hung over her tomb at Loches. Upon the accession of Louis XI the treasurer continued to be attached to the court, and as some difficulties arose with the new king in regard to Agnes's tomb, he had the painting removed. His wife Catherine died on August 24, 1454; and seven years after her death he took Fouquet's masterpiece to Melun and hung it over her tomb. Naturally, he no longer wished that the Virgin should be known as the portrait of Agnes Sorel; but the tradition has always stuck to the picture, and from a careful comparison with the authentic portraits of that beautiful lady there can be but little doubt about the matter. Both wings were formerly framed with a sumptuous border of blue velvet ornamented with enamels upon engraved gold, and was composed of various subjects alternated with the initials E (Etienne) and C (Catherine). In this border was the beautiful portrait of the artist, which is now one of the treasures of the Louvre; it is executed in enamel upon silver, and portrays Fouquet at the age of thirty-five.

Fouquet, in the religious works that have come down to us, shows remarkable powers of composition and ability to absorb the fervent spirit of his contemporaries. These qualities can be seen to the full at Chantilly, where the "Book of