

Museum in Nuremberg, not quite as fascinating as the Cologne example, however, and the same holds good of a "St. Veronica with the Sudarium," now in the Museum at Munich.

The largest and, from one point of view, most important work of this group is a large altar-piece now in a chapel of the cathedral at Cologne, which was painted originally for the Franciscan Nunnery dedicated to St. Clara. This nunnery was founded at the beginning of the fourteenth century, and soon became a sort of place of refuge for the noblest dames and virgins of Cologne and its vicinity. In the year 1327 certain relics of St. Constance, St. Ursula, and her martyrs were unearthed and housed here, which gave additional splendour to the place.

The altar-piece is divided into twenty-four compartments, separated by Gothic carvings, and in them the life of the Saviour is told. It was in its time an ideal representative of what painting originally purported to be, the literature of the unlettered, a book of information for those unable to read. Even a person of our own time, contemplating this large altar-piece, will be struck by a certain kind of vivacity that the scenes display, almost as much as by the apparent imperfections in drawing and limitations of