

10 STORIES OF THE FRENCH ARTISTS

It was but natural that art workers of every kind should have been profoundly impressed and moved to emulation by the wonderful skill of the twelfth and thirteenth-century architects. These men, within the limits of a short period of years, had emancipated themselves from the dominating influence of romanesque, and had thrown themselves into the creation of those magnificent monuments, the outcome of their Christian faith, with which France is covered: but these triumphs of architecture would not have been possible of achievement if the sculptor had not kept pace with the architect. It is strange that painting should have lagged so far behind, but it is only in comparatively rare instances that we find it employed in churches; and even in those instances the lack of technical skill makes the remaining fragments of little more than archæological interest.

That draughtsmen of considerable ability existed we have proof in the "parement" of Narbonne. This interesting fourteenth-century work is a drawing upon white silk of various scenes from the Passion; and the vigour and character which the artist has infused into his work, the composition, balance, and tenderness of expression, leave nothing to be desired. It is