

COMMENCEMENT OF RENAISSANCE 17

That representing the Virgin and Child passed into the van Entborn collection, and from that to the Antwerp gallery. The companion, which depicts Stephen himself with his patron saint, was lost sight of for some time after its removal from Melun, but was eventually found at Munich at the beginning of last century. It became the property of the collector Brentano, who then possessed the famous Chantilly "Book of Hours." From the Brentano family the picture was purchased by the Berlin gallery in 1896.

The origin of this famous diptych is enveloped in a certain amount of mystery. It is believed to have been ordered by Stephen Chevalier, and practically conclusive evidence that this was so is furnished by the fact that the Chantilly "Book of Hours" contains an almost identical scene. When the work was at Melun it hung over the tomb of Stephen Chevalier and his wife, Catherine Budé, who died in 1452. It was at one time thought that the Virgin was a portrait of this lady. The history of the diptych, however, seems to confirm the legend that Agnes Sorel, mistress of Charles VII, had really served as the model. Chevalier had been much favoured by this lady, who made him her executor; in order to express his gratitude he had this