

complete Our happiness, you may be Our crown ; and that the Church may rejoice at the progress of so great a king, whom she has just brought forth to God. Glorious and illustrious son, be the consolation of your mother ; be to her a pillar of iron to support her. For the charity of many is waning, and Our bark is shaken in the furious tempest caused by the plots of the wicked. But We hope against all hope, and We praise the Lord that He has withdrawn you from the powers of darkness, to give to the church, in the person of so illustrious a prince, a protector capable of defending her against all her enemies. May the Almighty God continue to give you and your kingdom His celestial protection ! May He command His angels to guard you in all your ways, and may He cause you to be victorious over all the enemies that surround you."

Another letter, that of Saint Avit to Clovis, manifests the great joy which his conversion and baptism gave to the christian world. As it not only congratulates Clovis, but details some of the obstacles with which the church had to contend, we shall give a few extracts from it. The Saint begins by speaking of the fact that Clovis had chosen the Catholic faith preferably to the many heretical beliefs of the time, and then he continues :

"Thy choice guides the judgment of others ; though judgest for them, while thou choosest for thyself, and thy faith becomes our victory. The most of those whom we exhort to embrace the true faith oppose to us the customs and usages of their ancestors, whom they are ashamed to condemn ; and, through a pretended respect for their forefathers, they remain in their unbelief. But after the wonderful event of which we have been the witnesses, let this shame and this pretext disappear ! Thou hast wished to inherit from thy ancestors nothing but their nobility. If they have done great things, thou hast done greater. Thou hast learned from thy forefathers to reign on earth ; thou wilt teach thy descen-

dants to reign in heaven.....What shall I say of the solemnity of thy baptism ?.....Oh, how that sacred night filled us with consolation !What a spectacle, said we, to behold that warrior quit his armor for a while to clothe himself in the white robe of baptism !....There is but one thing which I desire to see increase : it is that, since through God, thou wilt make thy nation wholly His own, thou procurest from the treasure of thy heart the seeds of faith to the nations still farther away, still plunged in their natural ignorance, but not yet corrupted by false dogmas. Do not disdain to send to them ambassadors, for the interests of God who has shown such great solicitude for thy welfare. These pagan peoples, having embraced religion, will serve thee through gratitude, and will look up to thee as their prince...."

We have now but to examine if the wishes of Pope Anastasius and of St. Avit were accomplished in Clovis and in the line of Kings which he founded ; and to investigate into the part played by the French nation, considering whether or not they have responded to the expectations here reposed in them.

In his life, though he embraced christianity, Clovis did not immediately divest himself of the habits contracted previous to his baptism : it could not be expected that from the state of a rude barbarian, he would immediately be transformed into a model christian. Development in the moral as well in the physical state must come gradually. A man never emerges, except through superhuman agency, from the state of serious sickness to that of perfect health. And so with Clovis ; he committed many acts, engaged in many wars which had not the spreading of christianity for their sole object. But we see the effect of the change in his life in the laws that he enacted. They were framed on christian principles and dropped to a great extent the atrocious punishments that were a characteristic feature of barbarian rule. His wars changed : the butchery of men and the