

to the reign of Clovis, by Laurentius, physician to Henri IV., in a work published in 1609; he also states that Louis I. frequently performed the ceremony with perfect success.

According to Comines, Louis XI. "touched" regularly once a week. Heylin states that the kings of France, after fasting and doing penance for nine days in the Church of St. Maclou, at St. Denys, were wont to receive the gift of healing the King's Evil with the touch alone. According to some writers, the ceremony could only be performed by the French kings on the day on which they had received the communion; others ascribe the "*donum sanationis*" to the relics of St. Marculf, in the church of Corbigny, in Champagne, whither the kings of France used to repair in solemn procession immediately after the ceremonials of the coronation at Rheims had been performed.

Francis I., on one occasion, in the presence of Cardinal Wolsey, "touched" a number of people, and even when confined as a prisoner in Spain did not lose the royal virtue, being reported while there to have cured many of struma.

Gemelli states that, on Easter, 1636, Louis XIV. touched sixteen hundred persons, accompanying the ceremony with the words, "*Le Roy te touche, Dieu te guerisse!*" Every Frenchman received fifteen sous, and every foreigner thirty.

Carte, in his history of England, gives an account of a young man who went to Avignon in 1716, to be healed of the disease by the touch of the Pretender,—“the lineal descendant of a race of kings, who had not at that time been anointed.” When Charles Edward was at Holyrood House, in Edinburgh, in 1745, although only Prince of Wales and Prince Regent, he exercised the royal gift of sanation, and “touched” a female child who, it is said, recovered wholly from the disease in twenty-one days, and never experienced any relapse.*

* In the library of Trinity College, Cambridge, there is a touch piece of James III., in silver.