

powering temptation. A careful study of the life led by clerks and university people, the society in which Villon moved, shows that his example is far from being isolated. Everywhere, in Parliament, in the "Chambre des Comptes," at the Châtelet, we find eminent personages accused and convicted of theft. In spite of his faults, Villon is not an accident among those who led the same life as he did. The one feature that singles him out from the crowd and which redounds highly to his credit is the remorse he shows for his misdeeds. He is conscious of his guilt and crimes, he is distressed and unhappy, reproaches himself and repents; whereas the others are shamelessly and unconsciously guilty and immoral.

M. Marcel Schwob brings also to light that Villon sided with the royalist party, that is to say he was a partisan of Jeanne d'Arc and Charles VII., and, in consequence, hostile to the English and the Duke of Burgundy. The whole clergy of Saint Benoît le Bétourné refused to take the oath of fidelity to Jean Sans Peur. It is among these churchmen that later on Charles VII. selected the *docteurs en décrets* who presided over the suit for the rehabilitation of Jeanne d'Arc.

The abundance of judicial terms Villon uses in a technical and very accurate manner has led some of his biographers to think that he had been a clerk either in the Parliament or at the Châtelet. But, in all his researches, M. Marcel Schwob has not found any evidence as to Villon reading at any school of law, and he explains that his knowledge of legal expressions, the use he makes of them, come of his having been brought up at the cloister of Saint Benoît le Bétourné, the clergy of which was deeply learned in canon law and read at the *écoles de décrets* in the neighbourhood, as were bound to do all the divines of Saint Benoît le Bétourné. Villon, therefore, spent his early life among lawyers, was mixed up in the quarrels of the university with the prévôté and the orders of mendicant friars, was for a time a clerk at the Treasury, and, living among royalists, remained faithful to Charles VII. The disorderly life he led probably caused his death at an early age. At any