

king attributed his death to the baptism and reproached Clotilda saying that had the child been consecrated to the gods he would have lived. To these words she meekly answered: "I render thanks to God that He has judged me worthy of bearing a child whom He has called to reign in His kingdom."

A second son was born. He also was baptized, and named Clodomir. But scarcely had he received the sacred rite when he fell very sick and appeared about to die. The king seeing this said: "He shall die as did his brother having been baptized in the name of your Christ." The child, however, recovered, God having heard the prayers of the faithful mother.

Clotilda persisted in her attempts to convert Clovis but with little success. God had designed that the object of her desires should be accomplished by other means. The German tribes established in the territory now known as Alsace and Lorraine had swept down upon the Ripuarian Franks. The Ripuarians being his allies, Clovis went to the aid of Sigisbert their chief. Early in the encounter Sigisbert was wounded and his troops fell into disorder. The army of Clovis seeing itself thus left alone to bear the brunt of the battle was beginning to waver before the terrible onslaught of the enemy. At this juncture Clovis bethought himself of the exhortations of Clotilda, so in his despair, raising his hands to heaven he exclaimed: "O Jesus, Thou who Clotilda assures me art the Son of the living God, if, as it is taught, Thou succorest the unfortunate and givest victory to them who trust in Thee, I implore thy immediate assistance. If Thou causest me to triumph over my enemies, I will believe in Thee, and will be baptized in Thy name. I have called upon my gods in vain. They cannot be powerful since they do not help those who adore them. For this reason I call upon Thee and desire to believe in Thee, only deliver me from my enemies." Scarcely had these simple and memor-

able words been uttered than the enemy became confused and, seeing their king fall mortally wounded, surrendered to Clovis, begging hostilities to cease and asking to become his subjects.

Faithful to his vow Clovis made preparations to become a christian. For this purpose he brought with him to his capital a priest named Vaast to teach him the doctrine of the Catholic Church. This holy man lived near Toul in retirement from the world yet he consented to accompany the king. He confirmed Clovis still more in the truth of christianity by a miracle which he performed during the journey. During their progress a blind man knowing that Vaast was in the king's train called out as he was passing by: "O, man of God, have pity upon me, I ask neither gold nor silver, but that you restore to me my sight." The holy priest feeling himself moved within, made the sign of the cross and exclaimed: "O, Lord Jesus, Thou who art the true light, Thou who openedst the eyes of him who was born blind, open the eyes of this man, that they who are here present may know that Thou art the only true God, who performest wonders in heaven and on earth." Instantly the blind man received his sight to the great wonder of all. A church was afterwards built in commemoration of the event at the place where this miracle was performed.

The queen had sent for St. Remy to further instruct Clovis in the teachings of the Church. The king, however, hesitated about professing christianity till he should consult his people. Speaking to St. Remy he said "I will gladly listen to thee, but I fear that the people will not be willing to forsake their gods. I shall address them according to what thou hast taught me." He called the Franks together, but even before addressing them, the people, as it were, moved by God, exclaimed with one voice. "Lord, we forsake our mortal gods and are ready to follow the immortal God preached by Remy."

Thus did the whole nation of Franks