

itself, "Sexcallus
i matriculario S.
m matricularium
fecerunt 10 Julii,
S. Joannis Evan-
rum Minorum." 36
completely at rest.
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spectacle, it became
s improbable, in
e feast of fools,
n may be looked
ouncil at present

Suppl. ad Ducang. v.



CHAPTER II.

*Places where the Dance of Death was sculptured or depicted.—
Usually accompanied by verses describing the several charac-
ters.—Other Metrical Compositions on the Dance.*



We find the Dance of Death often represented, not only on the walls, but in the windows of churches, in the cloisters of monasteries, and even on bridges, especially in Germany and Switzerland. It was sometimes painted on church screens, and occasionally sculptured on them, as well as upon the fronts of domestic dwellings. It occurs in many of the manuscript and illuminated service books of the Middle Ages, and frequent allusions to it are found in other manuscripts, but very rarely in a perfect state, as to the number of subjects.

Most of these representations were accompanied by descriptive or moral verses in different languages. Those which were added to the paintings of this subject in Germany appear to have differed very materially, and it is not now possible to ascertain which among them is the oldest. Those in the Basle painting are inserted in the editions published and engraved by Mathew Merian, but they had already occurred in the *Decennalia humanæ peregrinationis* of Gaspar Landismann in 1584. Some Latin verses were published by Melchior Goldasti at the end of his edition of the *Speculum omnium statuum*, a celebrated moral work by Roderic, Eishop of Zamora,