



## CHAPTER IX.

*Further examination of Holbein's title.—Borbonius.—Biographical notice of Holbein.—Painting of a Dance of Death at Whitehall by him.*



IT may be necessary in the next place to make some further inquiry respecting the connexion that Holbein is supposed to have had *at any time* with the subject of the Dance of Death.

The numerous errors that have been fallen into in making Holbein a participator in any manner whatever with the old Basle Macaber Dance, have been already noticed, and are indeed not worth the trouble of refuting. It is wholly improbable that he would interfere with so rude a piece of art; nor has his name been recorded among the artists who are known to have retouched or repaired it. The Macaber Dance at Basle, or anywhere else, is, therefore, with respect to Holbein, to be altogether laid aside; and if the argument before deduced from the important dedication to the edition of the justly celebrated wood-cuts published at Lyons in 1538 be of any value, his claim to their invention, at least to those in the first edition, must also be rejected.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> On the same dedication are founded the opinions of Zani, De Murr, Meintel, and some others.

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<sup>2</sup> Zuinger, 1  
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