



CHAPTER XVI.

Paintings.—Drawings.—Miscellaneous.



ENÉ of Anjou is said to have painted a sort of Death's Dance at Avignon, which was destroyed in the French Revolution.

In one of the wardrobe accounts of Henry VIII. a picture at Westminster is thus described :—"Item, a table with the picture of a woman playing upon a lute, and an old manne holding a glasse in th' one hande and a deadde mannes headde in th' other hande." (MS. Harl. No. 1419.)

A round painting in oil, by or from Hans Holbein. The subject, an old man making love to a young girl. Death pulling him back, hints at the consequences, whilst the absurdity is manifested by the presence of a fool, with cockscomb and bauble, on the other side. Diameter, 15 inches. From the striking resemblance in the features of the old lover to those of Erasmus, there is no doubt that Holbein intended by this group to retort upon his friend, who, on one of the drawings which Holbein had inserted in a copy of Erasmus's "Praise of Folly," now in the public library at Basle, and which represented a fat epicure at table embracing a wench, had written the name of HOLBEIN, in allusion to his well-known intemperance. In the present writer's possession.

The small painting by Isaac Oliver, from Holbein, formerly at Whitehall, of Death with a green garland, &c. already more particularly described at p. 128.