

THE ROSE OF SALENCY.

From Comes et Lazarus: In the sixteenth century there lived a good bishop in the town of Noyon. One of the adjacent villages was Salency, and to lead virtuous and industrious lives, he instituted an annual fête and decreed that a wreath of roses and a sum of 25 should be given to the young girl who received the most votes among the people of the village.

From that time all the young girls of Salency began a rivalry of virtue and industry, in order to merit the honor of the crown of roses and to receive the 25 which the bishop had promised to the young girl who was called the rose because she was to receive the roses.

Tradition says that it was the sister of the king who received the first crown from her brother's hand. Happy in this choice, the bishop placed a portrait of his sister in the church, and when he died he left a sum of 100,000 francs to give a fête to all the village.

"And you love your betrothed very much?" "Oh, yes, sir, I love Sylvain with all my heart."

"What for me, dear?" "For the crown of roses, which is a good deal more than for a happy marriage. When will the marriage take place?" "After the festival, sir, for I have been chosen as rosière."

church to take a humble place among the people instead of the place of honor. At the moment the ceremony of crowning was to take place the doors of the church opened wide and an officer entered crying: "Make way for his majesty, the king!"

Every head turned and Catharine became pale on seeing that the king was the cavalier who had accompanied her across the forest, and who had promised to be her sponsor. The king advanced, took his place at the foot of the altar, made a sign to the priest to continue the ceremony and addressing the people assembled, he said:

"My dear friends, you call me Louis the Well Beloved, and Louis the Just, I love Justice, indeed, and it is to prevent a great injustice that I am here to-day. I know you have chosen Catharine Galliot as rosière. I have heard all the cantillanes that that wicked girl (pointing to Juliette) has spread. The explanation that Catharine has refused to give I will give. It was I who accompanied her in the wood. It was I who hid her farewell, this brave girl crossed the forest alone for charity!"

At those words Catharine turned pale once more. For she feared for the life of the child which had been confided to her. The king saw her paleness and said: "My dear friends, you call me Louis the Well Beloved, and Louis the Just, I love Justice, indeed, and it is to prevent a great injustice that I am here to-day. I know you have chosen Catharine Galliot as rosière. I have heard all the cantillanes that that wicked girl (pointing to Juliette) has spread. The explanation that Catharine has refused to give I will give. It was I who accompanied her in the wood. It was I who hid her farewell, this brave girl crossed the forest alone for charity!"

Then the king took Catharine by the hand, led her to the altar and crowned her, save her the prize; he also gave her the blue ribbon he wore as a scarf and a silver tunic. The ceremony finished, he conducted Catharine to the banquet, placed her beside him and told every one the history of the generous conduct of the young girl. The king ordered that a blue ribbon and a silver ring be given to each ro-

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