

**A TWICE CROWNED
QUEEN, ANNE
OF BRITTANY**

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A twice crowned queen, Anne of Brittany by Constance De La Warr

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CONSTANCE DE LA WARR

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QUEEN, ANNE
OF BRITTANY**

A TWICE CROWNED QUEEN



ANNE OF BRITTANY.
Age about 15.

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A TWICE CROWNED QUEEN

ANNE OF BRITTANY

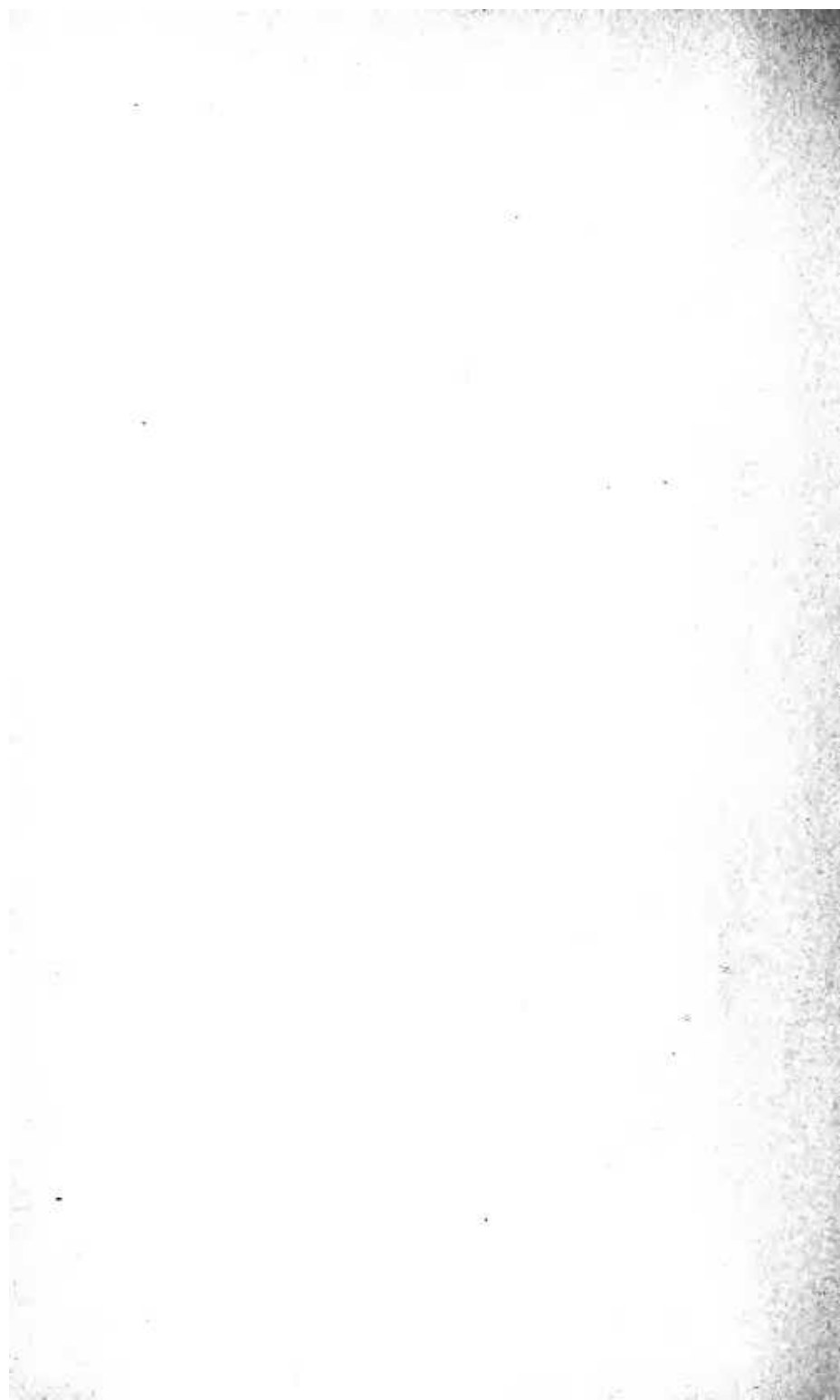
BY

CONSTANCE, COUNTESS DE LA WARR

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INTRODUCTION

No one who travels either in Brittany or Touraine can fail to be impressed by the great personality of Anne of Brittany, with which these two Provinces are impregnated. Whether you go to the large towns or small villages, you will find remains testifying to her life within them, either in the form of castles, such as Blois, Amboise, Loches, where she lived in great splendour, or of houses on a smaller scale at Dinan, Morlaix, Vannes, and Nantes, or, yet again of the many fine churches and convents which she erected and endowed.

She truly loved her Brittany, and greatly desired it to retain its position as an independent State, which it had more or less succeeded in doing until her own accession to its sovereignty on the death of her father, Duke

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Francis II., in 1488. It had, however, all along been a severe struggle for the Bretons to prevent their Duchy from falling into the hands, either of France or England,—the former country, especially, had ever looked upon it with a greedy eye, and had made many a raid upon the coveted land,—but though beaten on several occasions, they had again and again freed themselves from their invaders.

Anne, being only twelve years old at the death of her father, Charles VIII. of France felt he could not lose so good an opportunity of adding another jewel to the French crown, and decided to try the arts of love instead of those of war. He proclaimed himself the rightful guardian of the young Duchess, saying that it was his duty and that of France to watch over her. Anne in vain protested; but when, later on, he offered her his heart and crown, promising the young girl that she should remain sole ruler of her beloved country, and that its union with France would be but a nominal transaction, one cannot wonder that this assurance, and the triumph

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and honour of having the French king at her feet, overcame her objections, and led her to accept Charles' proposal, although she had been affianced, before her father's death, to Maximilian of Austria, as will be seen in the following history.

Brittany, in truth, tired out with all the fighting and feuds she was ever engaged in, accepted the alliance with more or less good grace, feeling also that so small a State could not long withstand the growing power of France. From this time Brittany virtually became a French province, though to the present day the inhabitants still retain their individual and independent spirit, and are honest, brave, religious, and simple. The national costume is still worn, and in many ways the people are quite a distinct type from the rest of France. It is really quite refreshing in these days to find a race which is not the counterpart of its neighbours, and mix with people whose ideas remain fresh and simple; and I am sure that no one would ever regret devoting time and study to this lovely country and its inhabitants.