

attention that it deserves. A number of excellent portraits, including a fine photogravure reproduction of Holbein's famous painting, add to the pleasure to be derived from the book.

*Christina
of Denmark.*

When Henry VIII.'s third wife died, the king remained a widower for two whole years. This was not out of consideration for the memory of Jane Seymour, however, for we are told that he began to negotiate a fourth marriage the day after Jane's death. Among the princesses who were regarded as eligible was Christina of Denmark, the widowed duchess of Milan. It was probably this momentary connection of Duchess Christina's career with English history that attracted the attention of Julia Cartwright (Mrs. Ady), and led to the writing of her latest biography, "*Christina of Denmark, Duchess of Milan and Lorraine*" (Dutton). The Duchess was a most attractive woman, and Mrs. Ady's narrative of her varied experiences makes pleasant reading. Her part in history was only a lesser one, however. She was the daughter of the erratic Danish king Christian II., who was deposed by his subjects and kept in close confinement for twenty-seven years; and a disinherited princess has but small opportunity to play a rôle on the stage of history. But she was also a niece of the Emperor Charles V., and her uncle found her very useful as a pawn in the game of European diplomacy. In the sixteenth century, when the State was still looked upon as the private property of the monarch, matrimonial alliances were very important political events: treaties were often given an added sanction by a marriage between the families of the contracting parties. Very often negotiations looking toward that end might serve the same purpose, as is shown in the history of England during the reign of Elizabeth, whose search for a husband at times seems almost pathetic. When only twelve years old, Christina was married to the Duke of Milan, who died the following year. The youthful widow was again married five years later, this time to the Duke of Lorraine; but after four years the Duke died, and Christina was a widow for the second time at the age of twenty-three. "Her beauty was in its prime, her charms attracted lovers of every age and rank; during the next ten or twelve years she was courted by several of the most illustrious personages and bravest captains of the age." But she refused to marry a third time. More than one-half of Mrs. Ady's account is devoted chiefly to Christina's marriages and to the negotiations that led up to them; the remainder deals with her long widowhood of forty-five years, with her many difficulties as regent of Lorraine, and with the marriage of her children. One phase the author has neglected: as daughters of the deposed Danish king, Christina and her sisters had "hereditary rights" to the crowns of Denmark and Norway, and it was their refusal to renounce these rights that forced the Danes to keep their father in such long and severe confinement. But the Danish phase of the story is not given the