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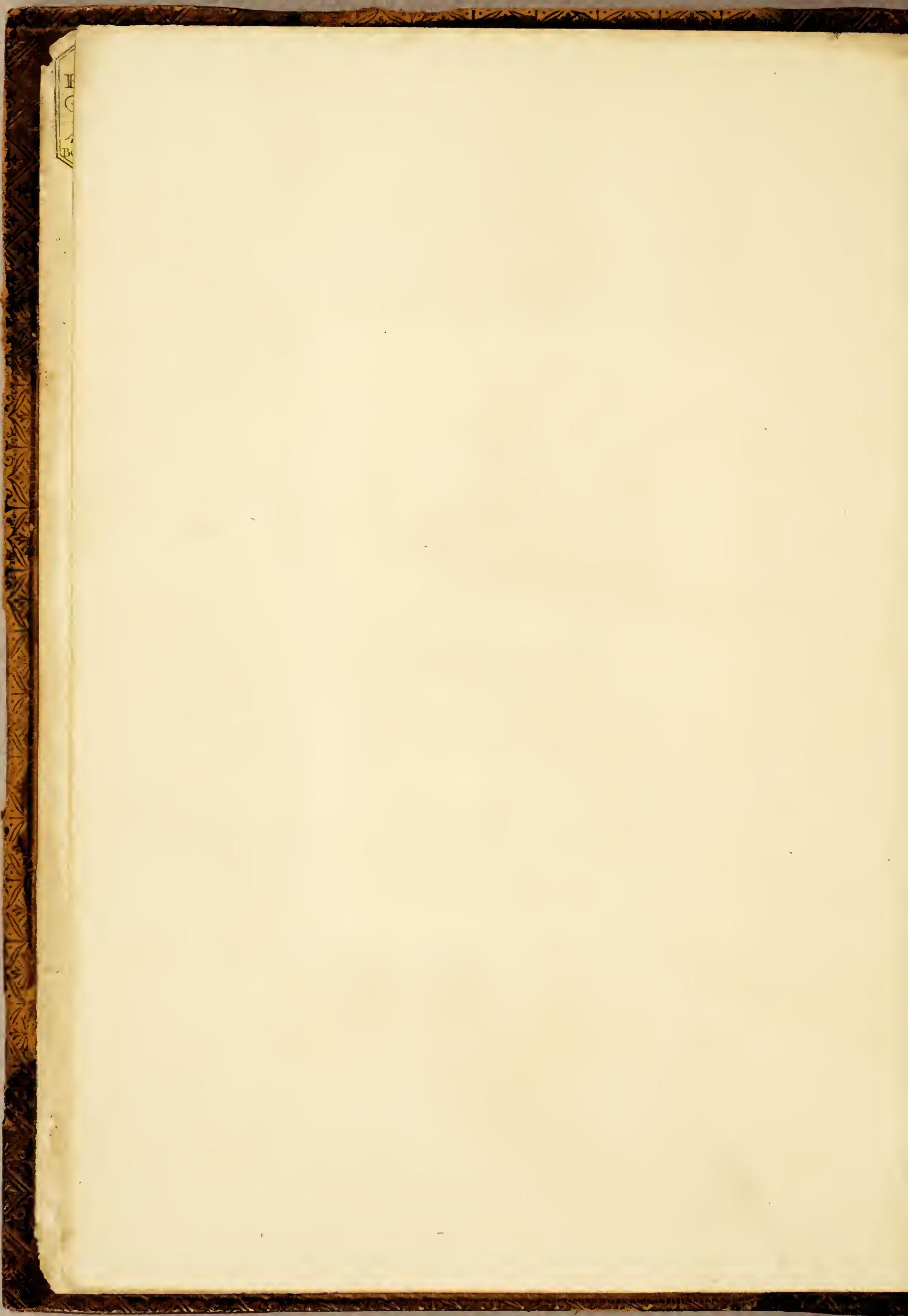


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6. A. C. H.

A  
SURVEY OF  
THE GREAT  
DVKES STATE  
*of Tuscany.*

In the yeare of our Lord  
1596.



AT LONDON  
Printed for *Edward Blount.*  
1605.

THE  
B

RPJCS



To my worshipfull good friend  
*Maister Robert*  
Dalington.

Sir:



Bing well assured that this your worke  
(out of your owne proection) would in  
the end present it selfe to the generall  
view; and likely enough some one that  
loues you not so much, nor knowes you at  
all, might haue the passing of it: I haue  
put my selfe in the way of your reproofe;  
and am become a theefe of this nature, to steale no more from  
you then I will againe giue to you. If I could perswade you  
there were a fault in modesty, you would bid me publish the  
vertue which you tye up in too straight bonds. My fault is, I  
haue done that which would haue beeene done; and the  
offer is so full of loue, that it lookes for a  
punishment accordingly.

Edw: Blount.

# The Analysis of this discourse.



# THE SVRVEY OF THE great Dukes State of *Tuscany.*



*Tuscany*, anciently called *Hetruria*, lieth The vnder the Regiment of *Sol*, in the fift Climate, betweene the Degrees fortie one, and fortie foure: a Countrey almost equally distant from the Equinoctiall and North-pole, and therefore by consequent of an ayre temperate, were it not that the Montaines cause some little excesse of both the passible qualities, heate and colde. Of this in winter, by reason they bee mantled with snowe, whereby the winde vireth with a more piercing sharpnes: of that in sommer, by the repercussiue force of the Sun-beames from the sides of those Hilles, at the foote whereof are most their Citties seated. Not hauing any valleys so large but that the scituatiōn of the Towne therein, makes it communicate in the passion of both these extremes. For as writers well affirme that the hills *Appennines* are one fourth part of *Italy*: so is it also determined that they & their Spurres, are three fourth parts of *Tuscany*.

It is in length, if you measure along the Sea-coast, two thousand five hundred furlonges, which make three hundred and twelve myles: but if you measure by the *Diameter*, according to *Ptolomey*, assigning it three Degrees, and forty seauen miles to a Degree, then it is some hundred fortie and odde miles: if according as the ordinarie Roade lies, which is neither somuch about as by the coast, nor so direct as by the *Diameter*, it is one hundred and seauenty miles. And thus doth *Leander Alberti*, the latest and exactest Surveyour of *Italie*, reconcile the authorities of *Strabo*, *Plynny*, and *Ptolomey*. But allowing sixtie miles to a *Degree*, it is in length one hundred and nintie miles, which is now the receaved opinion.

It is in bredth, one hundred where least, and in Circuite sixe hundred

The length.

The breadth.

## A Survey of the great Dukes

hundred and twenty, or as *faccio uberei* saith, seauen hundred.

*Il giro suo per quel che si ragiona,*

*E misurato settecento miglia,*

*E Roma qui, l'honor che l'incorona.*

The li-  
mits.

It is limitted, West, with the Riuver *Magra*, and Mountaines of *Lyguria*, East, with *Tyber*: North, with the Mountaines *Appennines*. and South, with the Sea.

The con-  
fines.

It confineth South with the *Terra di Roma*. South-east with the Dutchy of *Spoletu*, East with the State of *Vrbine*, North-east with *Romagna*, North with the state of *Bologna*, North-west with *Lyguria*, West and South-west with the Sea.

The anti-  
tiquity.

These are the limits set downe by *Polybius*, *Plynny*, *Pomponius*, *Mela*, *Solynus*, *Ptolomey*, and all other ancient writers: neither are we to enlarge this countrey so farre, as they that affirme the *Tuscans* possessed all betweene the *Adriatick* and *Mediterranean* Seas, from *Nola* in the kingdome of *Naples*, to the Mountaines *Rheti*, which is now the *Grisons* Countrey, and they say are come of the old *Tuscans*. True it is that these *Tuscans* were a mightie and powerfull people, such as oftentimes forced the *Romaines* to create a Dictator (which but in great extremities they might not do) to defend themselues from them: vntill the foure hundred and seauenth yeare after the foundation of *Rome*, when they were utterly ouerthrowne at the Lake of *Vadimone*, as *Lyaic* in his ninth booke affirmeth. Nor did the *Romaines* bring home onely glory, triumph and spoiles, from the conquered *Tuscans*, which argued the greatnessse of this nation: but they brought with them also (which argueth their antiquity) the habite of their youth, called *Prætexta*, the roabe of their elder age called *Toga*, the twelue Bundles of Roddes and Axes carried before the Consuls, called *fasces*: the seate of their *Prators* and other Judges carried vpon wheeles, called *Sedes curulis*. the Robe of the chiefe Magistrate, triumphall ornaments, and many other such ensignes of auncient greatnessse and Majestie; all which were brought thence to *Rome* by *Tarquinius Priscus*: whereof *Sylvius Italicus* in his 8. booke reporteth, confirmed by *Dionisius Alicarnassus*. From this Nation likewise whom the *Greekes* called *Tirrheni* of *Tirsos* their poore kinde

kinde of *Cottage*, and the *Romaines* first called *Hetrusci* of their religious worshipping the Gods, did the *Romaines* also bring many of those rites and ceremonies which they afterward vsed in their religion.

As *Delphos* is called by *Ptolomey Umbelius Mundi*, the *Nauile* of the world, so may we say of *Tuscani*, that it is *Umbelius Italiae*: howbeit in a Geometricall proportion, that is, in the middest of the forces of *Italy*: hauing on th' one side the state *Ecclesiastike*, the kingdome of *Naples*, and Dutchy of *Vrbyne*: and on the other counter-peasable to these, the States of *Venice*, *Myllan*, and *Genoa*, the Dukedomes of *Ferrara*, *Mantouia*, and *Parma*, and this State in the middest of the ballance, on which side soever it inclineth, ouerweighing the other.

This is that which *Guiccardine* saith in the very entrance of his Historie, that the wisdome of *Lorenzo Medici*, and the scituacion of the state of *Florence*, *Mantennero le cose d'Italia bilanciate*, vpheld th'affaires of *Italy* in equall Ballance. On which ground also *Lodouico Zforza* Duke of *Millan* layeth his foudation, for the reason he vseth in the third booke of the said historie: who very iealous of the *Venetians* greatnessse, hauing now vndertaken the protection of *Pisa*, and fearfull withall of the *Frenches* returne into *Italy*: he laboureth the Pope and King of *Aragon*, to enter into a confederation with the *Florentines*, and to re-inuest them of *Pisa*, inferring, that by this meanes the French forces might be diuerted, which otherwise with the helpe of this state (being seated in the middest of *Italy*) might effect matters of preiudiciall consequent to all three: so fitly stands it either to dispeople the enimies forces, or to reinforce their owne. And therefore *Guiccardine* very iudiciall determineth, that it was a powerfull estate, rather per l'opportunità del cito, che per la grandezza del Dominio, by the fitnessse of the scituacion, then by the greatnessse of the Dominion.

But if we define the middest of *Italy* in an Arithmetical proportion, that is, the center equally distant from both extreamis, it will appeare to be true which *Pliny* and *Varro* report, confirmed also by *Scander Alberti*, concerning *Lago di pie del Luco*, which *Tacitus* in his first booke calleth *Lacus Velinus*, in *Sabina*.

which they hold to be the middest of Italy.

The Ri-  
uers.

Concerning the Riuers of worth thiere be few, of name many : for the Italian hath a name for euery ditch , whereof if we allow them not *Tiber*, *Arno* is their chiefe : This Riuer was so named by *Hercule Lybicus*, whose surnames were *Libarno*, that is, the Lyon of *Lybia*: and *Musarno* that is, the learned and valiant, for *Ar* in the Arabian tongue signifies a Lyon. He was the sonne of *Osyris* and *Isis*, called *Iupiter* and *Juno* by the Greekes, and grand-childe of *Ianus* called by the Greekes *Ogger*, and by the Chaldeans and Hebrews *Noah*: wherevpon stand the Citties of *Florence* and *Pisa*, *Serchio* which runneth by *Lucca*: *Ombrone* by *Pistoia*, *Bisentio* by *Prato*, *Chiana* which passeth by the vale of *Arezzo*, and falleth into the *Arno*: *Mognone* which runneth neere *Finia vecchia* into the Sea, *Fire* which deuideth the great Dukes state and the Popes towards the Tuscan sea, & *Paglia* which deuides those two states towards the Appennines, ouer which we passe by a bridge built by *Gregory the 13.* in our iourney from *Florence* to *Rome*, betwene *Radicofani* and *Aquapendente*: that, belonging to the great Duke: this, to the Pope. True it is, that *Guicciardine* in the 4. booke of his History , and namely in that part of the booke which by order of th'inquisition is left out of all allowed copies , ( because in this place , though himselfe were the Popes creature, and had great charge vnder him,) yet he fully, learnedly, and truly sheweth how by little and little, and by bad meanes the Church grew to her greatnessse , how she came not onely to quit her obedience to the empire, but to haue also a power and stroke in the election of the Emperour himselfe, not onely to make the Pope gouernour of Roime, but to incroach also vpon the Territories and Citties of *Romagna*, the Marquisate of *Ancina*, the Dutchie of *Snoletum* and *Renuenitum* the superiority ouer the kingdome of *Naples*, and the possession of that part of *Tuscany*. ( now called the Patrimony of *S. Peter*) he I say, diuideth the Popes state in this Country from the rest of *Tuscany*, thus. *E terminata dal torrente di Pescia e dal Castello di San Lurico nel Contado di Siena da una banda: e dall'*

dali altra dal Mare di sotto, & dal fiume di Teuere : that is : it is limited on the one side with the Riuer *Pescia*, and the Castell Saint *Luirick* in the territories of *Siena*, and on the other, with the Riuer *Tyber*, and the *Tyrrhene* Sea. But I rather tie my selfe to the former limits, for that the *Paglia* is farre beyond Saint *Luirick*, whether the great Dukes state now reacheth. There is also *Cecina* which riseth a little aboue the Cittie of *Massa*, and so passing along the Countrey of *Volterra* falleth into the Sea, with many such other, which in England we rather call Brookes or Riuerets ; for of all these there are few fit either for burthen or Boate in Summer, except the *Arno*, yet heere often times scarce water for a Mill, as by their deuises at *Florence* to penne it vp appeareth. The reasons that the waters of this State are so small, be two : the former is, the violence of their downefall from the hilles, the better is because their heads are so neare to the Sea as they cannot haue space to be enlarged by the receipt of other lesser Brookes : by which meanes onely all Riuers grow great, as namely the *Rheine* and *Danowet*, whereof this last hath from his head, which is in the Forrest *Nera* to the *Mare Maggiore*, where he payeth his tribute aboue two thousand miles, and receaueth into his bed by the way three score nauigable Riuers.

The Lakes in this State, are neither many nor great, nothing so faire or fruitfull as those of Lombardy, namely *Lago di Garda*, *Lago d'Isesi*, *Lago d'Come*, and *Lago Maggiore*: the chiese in Tuscany are these, *Lago di Trasimene* vnder the Pope, who letteth it out to diuers Farmers for ten thousand Duckets the yeare, which haue the fishing, whereof it is very fruitfull and yeeldeth them also no little gaine. The profit which the Duke of *Ferrara* raised by the Lake of *Cimacchio*, who they say in *Venice* made thereof yearly foure-score thousand Duckets, makes this more probable. But this Lake of *Trasimene* now called *Lago di Perugia* is much more renowned for the notable ouerthrow giuen there by *Hanniball* to the *Romaines*, neare wherevnto is that faire plaine called *Ossaia* of the bones of the dead there flaine by the rashnesse of *C. Flaminius* the Consul,

## The Lakes

## A Survey of the great Dukes

as Polibius in his third booke, Liny in his two and twentieth, and Plutarche in the life of Haniball auowe. The other memorable blow giuen them (if it be not here impertinent to remember) was that at Canne in Puglia, called by Lini in his twentie and one booke Cannisum, where was slaine P. Emilius, the Consul L. Acilius, and L. Furius Bibaculus the Quæstors, one and twentie Tribunes of Souldiers, fourescore Senators, fortie thousand foote, two thousand and seauen hundred horse, all Romaines, and as many Anuiliaries, as Plutarch in the liues of Hanniball and Scipio, and Solinus Italicus in his ninth booke confesse: There are diuers Lakes betweene Pisa and Liuorne, but small and of no name: There are more not farre from the Cittie Colle, Lago di Bolsena, called by ancient writers *Lacus Vulfiniensium*, Ligo di Bassanello anciently called *Lacus Vademonius*, where the Romaines vtterly subdued the Tuscans, Ligo di Bracciane, called formerly *Lacus Sabbatinus*: Ligo di Vicco, called by Virgill in his seauenth Ænead, and Silvius Italicus in his eight booke *Licus Cimini*, of the Mountaine so called, standing betweene this Lake and the Cittie of Viterbo, Lago di Monte Rosa, not large but deepe neere Rome, with few others.

The  
plaines.

The Plaines are also few, (for they before are allowed but one fourth part) the chiefe are these. That of Florence wherein liue aboue two hundred thousand persons: that neere Arezzo called Vald' Arno, because the Riuer passeth by it the most fruitfull: that of Pisa the most lowe and therefore subiect to the ouer-flowing of Arno, whereof it hath tasted this present Winter to the Countries great losse: That of Lucca enuironed with Hilles, and the Citty in the middest like a center in a circle: That of Carigniana vnder the Dukedom of Ferrara. And lastly the Plaines of Maremma in the State of Siena, the most large, and whither for the Wintering of their Cattle they are sent in October from the Mountaines. It hath the name of Mare the Sea, and therefore we may well English it the Marshes of Siena, it runneth along the Sea-coast almost sequentie miles in length, betweene the two Riuers Gornia and

Pesia,

Pesua, not much inhabited with people through the badnesse  
of the ayre.

The Portes are, *Cinita Vecchia* in the Popes State, for *Ottia* <sup>The ports</sup>  
is on the other side of *Tyber*, *Orbitello*, *Port-ercole*, *Telamone*,  
*Castiglione* in the *Maremma*, howbeit vnder the King of Spaine,  
as is also the *Monte Argentaro* and the Port of *Piombino*.  
The onely Porte of worthe vnder the great Dukes State,  
is that of *Liuorne*, capable of any Fleete whatsoeuer.

It is rather to be called a Roade then a Harborough, and *Liuorno* or  
to be obserued that this Sea neither ebbeth nor floweth. Here *Ligorno*.  
his Highnesse daily buldeth, meaning to make it a Cittie, the  
walles and fortifications being almost finished. It is in forme  
sixe square, in circuite a mile three quarters, the length of the  
Curtaine is two hundred and sixteene paces, the face of the  
Bulwarke, is one hundred thirtie and eight. From the *Spurre*  
which is fifteene paces thick, to the *Flanker* which is so many  
broade, are eighteene paces. The Diameter of the *Piazza* is  
foure hundred and fiftie. This proportion no doubt swarueth  
from the strict rules of fortification, neither can I warrant the  
relation true by the line; I was forced to passe it in hast, and  
*tanquam aliud agens*, to auoide all ielousie; whereof I thought  
fit to aduertise the curious Reader, and to preuent the enui-  
ous detracter. Here is bestowed great cost, being indeed the  
onely Keye by which all commodities are transported and  
brought in, not onely for the vse of *Tuscany*, but euen for the  
most places of *Italy*. so that it bringeth in a very great enrate  
to the great Dukes coaffers, as I must more particularlie and  
more fitlie aduertise hereafter.

The Princes and States interessed in *Tuscany* are these. The <sup>Princes</sup>  
Pope, who possesseth all from *Tiber* to *Fiore*, and so right vp <sup>interested</sup>  
from the Sea to the ridge of the *Apennine*, which is some fourth <sup>in Tuscany</sup>  
part of the whole. The Spanish King hath the coast of *Marem-*  
*ma*, and the Portes thereof as is abouesaid, wherein he keepeth  
garrison, besides *Pontremoly*, and one other Forte or two on the  
side of *Liguria*. The Dukedom of *Ferrara* hath the valley of  
*Carigniana*. The State of *Genoa*, *Serezana*. The state of *Lucca*  
<sup>hath</sup>

hath all her possessions herein. The Dukes of Urbino, Parma, and Braiano haue also each of them a Peece (howbeit most of this is in the church part which is called the Patrimony of Saint Peter.) There is also the Signior di Pcombine, the Marquesse di Massa, and other inferiour Princes interessed in this Country of an other fourth part. So that there remaineth a Moitie vnder the great Dukes gouernment, whereof I haue vndertaken to giue this superficiall survey which followeth.

The great  
Dukes  
state.

Castels.

This State, besides that it is enclosed with the Mountaines as with a wall on three-sides, and with the Sea on the fourth, and so consequently by scituatioun passing strong: it hath also many Castles and Fortresses, as Ridicofany, Monce-falcon, Pelegrine, Charole, Sansabastiano, Lusignano, Monterisine, Empoli, Castroaro, Sassa, and diuers others, to the number of thirty, wherein is garrison more or lesse: But of others which stand rather to shew the manner of fortifications in elder ages, and the force of time by which they are ruined, then for any vse of the time present, there are aboue three hundred. By which number may very probably be conjectured their many and diuers States in this small circuite in former times: for as it appeareth by Historie, not onely Florence, Siena and Pisa (which of late yeares were reduced into one gouernment) but also Pistoia, Arezzo, Volterra, and almost all the Citties now vnder the great Duke, had euery one their severall and distinct state. Whereupon it was necessary, each State should haue her Castles and Fortes to affront those that confined vpon them. As for those former wherein is garrison, the most of them in the iudg'ment of men experienced, haue their defect either in their forme and manner of fortification which is *All' Antica*, or in their *Piazza*: which are very little, and so thought vncapable of sufficient number to defend them. But besides these he hath in each cittie a Cittadell, and therein a garrison, which are all very moderne and strong: the vse of which Peeces are not so much for defence of the Townes where they be, as to keepe in awfull termes the citties themselues; as by the cittadell at Florence and Fortresse of Siene appeareth.

Of

## State of Tuscanie.

9

Of Citties there be sixteeue, the one halfe in the state of Florence, the other in that of Siena : of the former state these be the names. Florence whereof is an Archbishoprick, his name that now is Alexander Medici : Pisa an Archbishoprick also, his name Carolus Antonius Putens : Pistoia, Arezzo, Volterra, Cortuna, Burgo san Sepolchro, and Monte Pulciano. Of the other state are these : Siena an Archbishoprick, his name Ascanius Piccothuomineus, Montalcino, Grosseto, Chiusi, Soana, Pienza, Massa and Colle christened a cittie five yeares since. Many of these I saw not, and therefore presume not to speake of at large : in the fourie chiefest, Florence, Pisa, Siena and Pistoia, I spent some time, and hold them worthy of some little remembrance in this discourse, before I come to speake of the generall parts of this state.

Florence is seated at the head of a very faire valley, and environed with high Mountaines, especially towards Bologna, it hath the streetes very long, streight, large, and faire, paued with a broad stone which they call *Lastra*, so as no weather makes them foule : it is beautified with many stately Pallaces, which haue more *del Reale* then *del Cittadinesco*, as that of the Signoria, that of the Pitti, where is alwayes the great Dukes courte : that of the Medici, that of the Strozzi, and many others : it is graced with many large Piazzes, and in them many Statues, some of Brasse, as that of *Cosme*, the first great Duke, and others very many and very curious; some of Marble, some of Alabaster : it is diuided with the Riuere *Arno*, and vpon this fourie faire Bridges of Stone to passe from one part of the cittie to the other. It is adorned with many faire Monasteries and churches, but aboue all with the most magnificent and admirable Fabricke of the *Duome*, the workmanship of that excellent Architeck Brunelleschi dedicated to *Santa Maria del Fiore*, and is (they say) the true Modle of the church of *Santa Sofia* in Constantinople. The body of this church from the West to the Cupula, is one hundred paces, the bredth fortie sixe : the Cupula is in circuite three hundred paces, with a guilt Ball of Brasse on the toppe, wherein twenty men may stand vpright.

C

All

All the outside and paument are of Marble, and the *Campagnile* (a steeple) without, wherein the finesse of the stuffe & the rarenesse of the worke are both so exellent, as *Charles of Austria* said it was pittie, it had not a Mantle to keepe it from foule weather. Not farre from the West Portaile of the *Duomo*, is the auncient Temple of *Mars*, round in forme, and now dedicated to *S. John Baptist*: where, besides the excellencie of the stuffe & workmanship, is a very rich Font, and a double leaued Gate of fine metall, and finer worke, whereof is not the like in *Europe*, hereof writes *Uberti*:

*To viddi molti luoghi riufi e cari,  
Ma sopra tutti mi piacque il Battista,  
Che d' intaglio di marmo non so il pari.*

These and other such ornaments haue worthily got this Cittie the name of *Firenza la bella*: which the said Prince of *Austria* well confirmed, who vpon exact view taken of all the graces and beauties of this Towne, said, *ch'ella era una città che non si doveua mostrare, se non né giorni solenni*: that this was a Citty not to be shewen but vpon holy-daisies. The beauty of this Towne was the *Medius Terminus*, vpon which the vaine-glorious *Florentine* grounded the reason of his induction, who argued thus: My house is the fairest Pallace in all the *Strada larga*: this the fairest streete in *Florence*: this, the fairest Cittie in *Italy*: this, the fairest countrey of *Europe*: *Ergo*, my house is the fairest Pallace of *Europe*. Much like this argument of *Themistocles*: My little Boy ouer-rules my mother; she gouernes me; I command all *Greece*: *Ergo* my little Boy commands all *Greece*.

The walles of this Towne are of rough stone, two & thirty foote high, not thick, but with a reasonable Rampart, herein one hundred and fiftie Towers built, *all Antica*, and in circuite five miles: there are neither Ditches of vse, nor Suburbes at all: there were of these Suburbes vntill the yeare 1528. and they almost as big as the whole Cittie, as *Leander Alberti* testifieth: at what time they were vtterly ruined, and now no memorie of them remaining. This carrieth the greater credit, for that *Boccace* in the beginning of his *Decameron*, describing the great plague

plague of *Florence*, saith, there dyed in one yeare aboue one hundred thousand persons: more then are now in all the Cittie, the Suburbes being gone.

Vpon the North-west of this Wall is a Cittadell begun in the time of *Alexander Medici* first Duke, by the motion of *Clement* the 7. as in the last booke of *Guicciardine* appeareth. The end of building this Perre, was to bridle the Towne, for which vse it is still manned with a strong garrison, and prouided of Powder, shott, munition, victuall, and all things necessarie. Right against this on the South-east of the Cittie is the Fortresse of *San Miniati*, and on the South, the new Forte, which standeth on the hill right ouer the Great Dukes house, both to defend the same, as also to retire into, if neede were, with all his treasure, and lastly to commaund the Towne; for which three vses it fitly serueth.

It may here be obserued of *Florence*, as also of most of the Cities of this state, that few or none of them can be said to be strong, except either in respect of their Scituacion among Lillies, as *Siena* and *Volterra*: or by reason of those Cittadels, by which they may recouer the townes being lost, as we say of *Brescia* and *Bergamo* in the state of *Venice*: True it is, that in *Venetian* dominion yee haue other strong townes in other respects; some by good fortification, good walles, thick Ramps, deepe and large ditches, capable and defensible Bulwarks, and in a moist soile, as *Treviso* and *Lignago*; others are therfore strong, because besides these fortifications, they are so great in circuite, as they cannot be besieged but by a mightie Armie, as *Padua* and *Verona*: and others by reason of their scituacion vpon the Sea as *Corfu*, whether the *Venetians* being Lords of that Sea, may alwaies send succours vpon occasion. But concerning the Cities of *Florence*, none of them can be said to be strong in any of the three last respects.

There are forty foure Parish Churches, twelue Priories, seauen Monasteries of men and women, and thirtie seauen Hospitals. There be religious people of all sorts 24000. so many of others as make the whole number 90000. In the Cloisters

## A Survey of the great Dukes

of the Church of *San Lorenzo* is a very faire and beautifull Librarie, built and furnished with Bookes by the familie of *Medici*: the roofe is of Cedar very curiously wrought with knots and flowers, and right vnder each knot is the same wrought with no lesse Arte in the pauement. In this Library I told three thousand nine hundred bookes very fairely bound in Leather, after one sort, all bound to their seates, which were in number sixtie eight: and, which is the greatest grace and cost also, very many of the bookes were written with the Authours owne hands. There is also at the farther end of this Librarie one other of prohibited bookes, which I could not see.

The great Seale of *Florence* is the *Lyon and Hercules*: their Armes were in former times a *Flower de Lys* argent in a field gules, but vpon the banishment of the *Ghibelline* faction, they are altered to the contrary; the Field to the colour of the flower, and the flower to the colour of the field. Within these hundred yeares haue beene of this Cittie three Popes, *John* and *Innlius Medici*, *Leo* the tenth, and *Clement* the seauenth, and *Hippolitus Aldebrandini* called *Clement* the eight that yet liueth. Here haue also flourished many famous men in matter of learning, as *Francesco Guicciardini* for a iudicall Historiographer: *Nicolaus Machianelli* for a worldly Politician; *Michel Angelo* for an excellent Painter; *Petrache* and *Dante* for singular Poets; and *Boccace* for his pleasant garbe and refining their language, and many others.

Hauing gazed your fill vpon the beauties of this Towne, if for varieties sake, and your better recreation, you will walke abroade into the *Villa per spasso*, as the *Italian* saith; you shall haue there in view, so many, and such goodly Pallaces, for the space of six or seauen miles compasse, as (they say) would make one other *Florence*. But aboue all, the great Dukes Pallace of *Pratolino*, built by his brother *Francesco*, is the most admirable, not for the Pallace it selfe, or manner of the building; for there are many can match it, if not excell it: But for the exquisite and rare inuention of Water-workes, wherein it is excellent, and thought to exceede *Tivoli* by *Rome*, so much in this kinde commended.

mended. The house it selfe is built in forme of a *Romaine T*, the head of the letter which is the front of the house, being in length seauenty paces, & the other part fifty foure : the roomes for offices of Court, and lodgings are seauenty , whereof these are all of one bignesse, forme, and furniture : with three goodly Halles richly furnished , running along the middest of the Pallace, from the one end to the other , and the one opening into the other , so as according to the winde or sunne , he may giue his intertainment for the best ease of them he feasteth: It is seated betweene two high Hilles , vpon a third lower then they, from which hilles yee descend some quarter of a mile, by a way set with quick-set, & kept after our English fashion : yee mount vp to the *Terreno* of the Front by twelue staires , very faire of Stone, directly wherevpon, at the head of a Garden set round with Statues of the Muses in a ground sencibly ascending , is seene a huge Giant cut out of the maine Rock, with all his parts, as armes, hands, legges, and feete, symmetricall to his head, wherein may stand a dozen men : In it are kept Pigeons ; the loouers wherat they come in and out , are his eares ; the windowes which giue light to the roome, are his eyes . Out of his mouth falleth into a very fine poole, all the water that serues the worke on the other side the Pallace , among which are many sights yeelding very great content, as *Noes Arke* with all kinds of beasts, *Hercules* fighting with a Dragon , Birds artificially singing, Organs musically playing, showers of Raine plentifully downe powring , and infinite sort of such devise, more delightsome to be seene then pleasant to be discoursed of. To conclude, the devise so good, the workmanship so rare, and the charge so great, as it is said constantly that it cost Duke *Franesco* three hundred thousand Crownes.

The great Duke hath another Pallace, two miles from *Florence* , called *Castello* , onely for pleasure, but not so beautified nor full of water-workes as this of *Pratolino* : an other distant 10. miles off, called *Il Poggio Imperiale* , more profitable then they both, in forme quadrangular, fifty six paces square; Where besides the pleasure it yeelds of hunting , it yeeldeth also sum-

mering and Haye for his Horses, and keepeth the great Duches a dairie of three hundred Kine: a commodity worth the remembring in this state, where in three-score miles are not seene three-score head of Cattle; nor so much good pasture ground (that I saw) in the whole countrey.

I am now before I proceede to the other chiefe Citties, to remember in a word, how and when the *Florentines* came impatrionized of diuers other states of *Tuscany*, and what forme of gouernment they had in former times, vntill *Leo* and *Clement*, for I must there needs begin, when I shall come to speake of the great Dukes title.

This Cittie of *Florence*, after many conflicts with the olde City of *Fesula*, (whereof now almost remaineth no memory, but the hilles whereon it stood) getting the vpper hand, and many of that olde towne following the fortune of the winner, comming hither to dwell, it grew to beare the name of a great and rich Cittie: which till then(euer since the time of *Sylla*, by whom they say it was first founded and made a Collony of the *Romaines*)bare rather the name of a Bourough, then otherwise. And after a combination of these two Citties into one Comminality, they quartered the Armes of *Fesula*, which were a Moone Azure in a field Argent, with those of *Florence*, being a *Flower de Lys* Argent in a field Gules. It was afterward subiect to diuers sackings and subuersions by the *Gothes*, *Gauls*, and *Lombards*, partaking with other Citties of *Italy* in those miseries which these Nations inflicted. Insomuch as there was nothing remaining of their auncient glory, but ruines and desolation, & what the barbarous crueltie of such an enemie could not tyranise vpon. In these tearmes *Charles* the great found it, who caused it to be reedified, appointing for the gouernment thereof two Consuls, and a Senate of an hundred. After this, they altered the gouernment, conferring it vpon ten called *Antiani* Aldermen, (as I take it) in the yeare 1254. Shortly after in the yeare 1287. they wan the Citty of *Pistoia*, and about the same time they purchased their liberty of the Emperour *Rodolphe* for three-score thousand Duckets: And againe changed their forme of gouernment,

ment, to eight *Priori*, and a *Gonfalonier of Justice*, who was to hold his place for 2 moneths only. Presently after they bought Arezzo of Mastino della sala, for forty thousand Duckets. And in the yeare 1471. they wan by force Volterra, one of the 12. first Citties of Tuscany and honoured with the birth of the Poet *Persius*. They got also Pysa & the whole State thereof, of whose reuolt, and recouery, what parts taking there was, & what time was spent, and how many Millions it cost them to be reposseſſed thereof, Guicciardine very fully discourteth, and were here too tedious to be particularly related. The gouernment of a Gonfalonier was altered by Gualteri Francesc Duke of Athens, who at the Citties request requiring aide, was sent thither by Robert king of Sicilie, and at his first comming deposed the Gonfalonier and *Priory*, & usurped himselfe ; but he was quickly expulsed, and the former officer reinuested : till the time of Pope Alexander the sixt, whose sonne Cesar Borgia duke Valentinois sought to bring in the three banished Medici, Piero, Giouanni, and Giuliano; wherevpon the Florentines made Piero Sederini their Gonfalonier perpetuall, as Buonacorsi an approued Italian writer, & Guicciardine in his fist booke doth testifie. These alterations haue been since the restauration of the city by Charles, (which notwithstanding) Guicciardine lib. 1. car. 17. saith, was openione inueterata benche falsa, che Carlo l'hauesse reidificat, an old but falfe coniecture, that Charles did reedifie it : besides those also which it suffered afterwards, which shall more fitly be remembred hereafter.

From Florence I must passe to the Cittie Pistoia, seated at the other end of this valley, 20. miles off. But the Castle of Pratu being in the way, and commanding the passage, I dare not but salute it ; the rather for that I spent foure moneths in that Towne.

There are in Italy among I know not how many thousands, Prato. foure principall Castles aboue the rest reputed, as Leander Alberti in his view of Italy discourteth : Barletta in Puglia in the kingdome of Naples ; Fabriana in Marca Anconitana, vnder the state of the Church ; Crema in Lombardia, vnder the Venetians, and

and Prato in Tuscana vnder the great Duke. It is heere to be obserued, that these are called Castles, not that they be onely Fortresses and places of strength, but that they be large townes fortified with wall and Bulwarke, and haue their Territories; they onely want Bishops Seas, wherein they differ from Citties. It standeth in the middest of this Valley vpon the riuier Bisenzio; it is in forme sex-angular, at each corner a Bulwarke *alla Moderna* very defensible; the walles in circuite two miles, with an olde peece at the East built (they say) by Frederico Barbarossa. The *Contado* (the Territory) of this Towne is in length eight nules, in bredth foure, in circuite foure and twentie, within which compasse (with those within the Towne) are fiftie nine Churches, eight and thirtie Monasteries, and other religious houses, and of all sorts of people sixteene thousand, whereof two thousand are religious. Here is (they say) the Girdle of our Lady brought thither by a Marchant from the Indies, whether it was first carried by S. Thomas the Apostle, a Relicke which they hold in high esteeme, keepe with very great care, come to see with great deuotion, and is shewed to the people with great reuerence once in a yeare; that is, on our Ladies day in September, in the time of their Faire, and when is most concourse of strangers. There came that day in deuotion (to see me, not the Girdle) two English Gentlemen my friends; we obserued (if it be not impertinent here to remember) that there were in view vpon the Market place of people at the shewing of this Relicke, about eighteene or twenty thousand, whereof we iudged one halfe to haue Hattes of Straw, and one fourth part to be bare legged; that we know all is not gold in Italy: though many Trauellers gazing onely on the beautie of their Citties, and the painted surface of their houses, thinke it the onely Paradise of Europe. But if they would with me,

— — — — — *sordida rura*

*Atq; humiles intrare casas & visere gentem:*  
they would surely graunt, that pouertie and famine had not a greater kingdome in those countries where Crassus starued his Armie, then they haue heere. But no manuaile though Prato be poore.

poore being so vniustly and cruelly sacked in the yeare 1512. by the Spaniards vnder the conduct of *Raymondo Cardona*, for want of pay which the *Florentines* ought him and his Souldiers: who most vilely gaue the sacking of this pretty (and then rich) towne, to the barbarous insolencie of the proud *Spaniard*, and came themselfes with bagges of Crownes to purchase the lands of the poore harmlesse *Pratesi*, wherewith they were forced to redeeme their liberty, after the rauishing of their wiues, killing of their children, robbing their shops and houses, and other such insolent out-rages; whereof *Guicciardine lib. 11.* complaineth, that from their auarice, lust, and cruelty, nothing was safe. And *Buonacorsi* saith, that they spared neither virgin, infant, nor church, & *Paulus Iouius* affirmeth, that the Spanish cruelty in this sack of *Prato*, did farre exceed that of the *Dutch* and *French*, at the sack of *Brescia* so much detested. Hence is it that at this day the name of *Spaniard* is there most odious, for among all other names of infamy and reproach, when they haue called one *Poltrone*, *Furfante*, *Manigoldo*, *Traditore*, and all that naught is, they end alwayes in this *Spagnaolo* intending (it should seeme) that there is not a worse name vnder the sunne.

But leauing them expostulating this iniurie of the *Florentines*, and bewailing their owne miseries, I will proceed to the Cittie of *Pistoia*.

It is seated at the West end of the Valley, in circuite two *Pistoia* miles and a halfe, the walles old and weake, built by *Desiderius* king of the *Lombards*: Howbeit the Bulwarkes are very moderne and strong, with a Cittadell built by Duke *Francesco*, and manned with a sufficient garrison to keepe the towne in awe. This Towne is called of *Cato* and *Pliny*, *Pistorium*; and of *Ptolomey*, *Pistoria quasi Pestoria* (saith one) of the pestilence that there raigned among the souldiers, which remained of *Catelines* Campe after he was ouerthrowne, who (they say) was the first builder thereof. Others will haue it called of *isis* and *opos*, that is the faithfull Territorie. Others because it is the doore of the Mountaines which the word also signifieth, for from hence is away to passe through the *Apennines* into *France*: by which

the French forces passed into *Tuscany*, and so to *Naples*, in the time of *Charles the eighth*, as by the historie appeareth. All which are either false conjectures and carry no correspondencie of trueth with history, or at least are idle suppositions, and carry with them no matter of import. For what reason is there that the *Grecians* should giue names to townes in *Tuscany*, who never came ouer the Riuier *Tener*? or that they should christen this and no other? or that a *Romaine* should be the Father, and a *Greeke* the Godfather: but were it so, it little importeth, and therefore I haue purposely auoided these fruitlesse etimologies: else could I haue said before, that *Florence* was called either (*Fluentia*) because it stands betweene the two waters *Mognone* and *Arno*, or (*Fiorentia*) of *Fiore* a flower, because it is the flower and beauty of *Italy*: or (*Firenze*) which *Giambolare* one of their writers deriuies from a *Caldey* word, and signifies (he saith) a valiant Souldier; as who would say the *Florentines* were such: which I haue not yet read, and I am sure they of *Siena* will not confess: who will not let to bragge how often they haue beaten them in the field. Indeede I well remember, that writers giue them thi' attribute of (*Ingenious and wise*) as namly *Macciauelli* in his *Florentine history*, and *Guicciardine* in the verety beginning of his booke Cart.z. Howbeit I could easily condescend to the opinion of *Imbalt* a French commaunder, who vpon good experience *Guicciardine lib.5.cart.144.* Non sapemus donec consisteret, lingegne tantu celebratu de *Fiorentini* could not finde where that great witte of theirs laye. So likewise these word-founders will haue their Cittie *Arezzo* to be so old as that it was built when for want of a fit name they were faine to call it (*Earth*) for so in the Hebrew tongue it signifieth. But seeing that *Tully* and *Varro* call it (*Aretium*) and not (*Arezium*) me thinkes they might better deriuie it from *Mars* (which the word well beareth) for I am well assured, that historie makes the *Arrettines* and their neighbours the *Perugians*, farre better Souldiers then the *Florentines*.

But I will not ouer-charge this short discourse with deriuations, I had rather leaue them with the capriccious Antiquaries of

of *Tuscany*, and returning to *Pistoia*, say : that though it be very little, it is very rich, as hauing a *Contado* full of oyle and wine : insomuch as it is said, they presse yearly one hundred thousand Barrels of Wine , whereof they send the one halfe to *Florence*, of which the great Duke hath (*gabell*) a custome one *Guilio*, (six-pence sterlinc) for euery Barrell , at the entery into euery Cittie gate , besides the tenth leuied vpon it before, and an imposition after vpon euery tauerne, as shall more fitly in the discourse of his entrate be aduertised.

This Towne is famous, or rather infamous, for the two factions of the *Bianchi* and *Nery*, which ruined themselues, and troubled the peace of *Florence* also : it began thus. Two young Gentlemen of the towne falling out, and so proceeding from words to blowes, it chanced one of them receiued a light hurt, The father of the other (because he would kill all motions to a farther quarrell) sends his Sonne to aske pardon of the Father and Parentage of the other whom he had hurt : but he causing his seruants to lay hold on him, commaunded his right hand to be cut off, and sent him away with this answere, *Va dal tuo Padre & digli, che le ferite non si curano con parole ma col ferro*; Goe to thy father and tell him, hurts are not cured with words, but with the sworde. Herevpon grew that great and bloody enmity betweene those two houses, which drew into it all the great families of *Pistoia*, as also them of *Florence*, wherc the *Donati* banded with the *Neri*, and the *Circhi* with the *Bianchi*. Since which faction, there hath also another risen no lesse dangerous then the former, betweene the *Cancellieri* and the *Panzadici*, scarce yet so composed, but that vpon euery sinall occasion it is ready to breake out.

This Towne pretendeth to be much priuiledged aboue all other Citties vnder the great Duke, for at the time when they yeelded to the State of *Florence*, it was among other Capitulations concluded ; that in any *Bando* (Proclamation) whatsoeuer except the Cittie and *Contado* of *Pistoia* were expressly named, it was to be vnderstood exempt & freed from the same, which indeed is still obserued, howbeit a course is taken neuer to leaue

that clause out: so that I see small reason they haue to bragge so much thereof. The people in and without the Citty are supposed sixtie foure thousand: the Religious are much about the the rate of them in *Prato* an eight part.

I cannot passe the direct way from hence to *Pisa*, whether the course of this discourse directs me, vnlesse I passe vnder the walles of *Lucca*: which being no part of this State, I know not how I may speake of; that haue vndertaken to write of nothing else: and yet passing so neare, I know not how to auoide some mention thereof, that am likewise to aduertise of what I haue seene. Wherefore betweene a doubt which is lesse fault, to digresse in my narration, or be diuerted out of my way, I will speake so little, as if it be a fault to digresse, it may be excused, because this little is nothing, & if it be a fault to write so little, it may be answered I durst not digresse.

*Lucca.*

The Citty of *Lucca* was anciently called *Fredia*, and afterwards being the first of the twelue old Citties of *Tuscany* that receiued the Christian faith, & light of the Gospell, it changed the name of *Lucca*, a *Luce*, herewith accordeth *Fuccio Uberti*;

*Ma perche alluminata della fede*

*Fu pria, ch' altra Cittade di Toscana,*

*Cangiò il suo nome, e Lucca le si diede.*

It is seated (as is before said) like a Center in a Circumference, in the middest of a faire and pleasant valley, enuironed with wast and huge Mountaines: The walles in circuite two miles, are of Brick very new, strengthned with a very thick Rampart, and fortified *alla moderna*, with very many and defensible Bulwarkes. Insomuch as it is thought, that when the Bulwarke that is now in the making at the North-west of the towne is finished, with one other at the East which is already purposed, and the *Terra-pieno* (Rampart) of this East side made answerable to the rest, which is also intended, it shall then haue in all, eleuen Bulwarkes, and will without exception be one of the best fortifid townes in *Italy*. They keepe in the towne a garrison continually of three hundred Souldiers, and are able (they say) to drawe into their Cittie at two daies warning out of their owne territorie, thirtie thousand able men for seruice; for which number

they

they haue prouision of armes, victuals, and all things necessary vpon occasion . I was in their Granaries , where I saw, as they credibly rated it of Wheate, Rie, Beanies, and Chestnut Meale the quantitie of six hundred thousand Staies , which of our measure maketh about fifty thousand quarters, besides so much more kept in diuers conuents and Monasteries of the towne which they call their *Prouisione d' Abondanza* (store). All which prouision is able (in case of a Siege) to maintaine the Citty for two yeares, at the number of three-score thousand people , allowing twelue Staies a man the yeare; a proportion in those parts, and such cases very large. The reasons of these fortifications, garrisons, and prouisions which they make, is the iealous feare they haue of the great Duke , of whom all their State which is somewayes fiftie miles in length is euery way enuironed, whose greatnessse is nothing pleasing to the *Lucchesi* neither can they well digest that his title (*di Toscana*) and therfore the *Signoria* of this State , sending letters of congratulation (they say) but it is more probable about some other their affaires to *Cosmo Medici*, presently after his creation of great Duke, they stiled their letters thus. *All' Ihsno e Ecsmo principi Cosmo Mediei gran Duca (m) Toscana*. To which garbro of theirs the Italian rime also alludeth, which saith thus;

*S' il Duca hauesse Lucca e Serezzana,  
Saretbe il gran Duca (di )Toscana.*

Implying that it is no reason he should be intitled great Duke of the whole, hauing no more but the one halfe. But howsoeuer this towne stand *pronista* as it braggeth , and are able to keepe him out of themselues two or three yeares together, more then probable it is, that the feare of the *Spaniſh* King, to whose protection it is recommended, doth curbe his desire in attempting the action , watching ouer this prety State with an ambitious and couetous eye , *come Lo spariucre alla quaglia* , as the Hauke ouer the Quaile,hoping one day for an opportunitie.

I am now by order leauing *Lucca* to looke to her selfe , to *Pisa*. passe the Monte *Saint Julian*, and arriue at *Pisa*: a Cittie in former times very populous as any in *Tuscany*, now so dispeopled

as there are not iudged aboue foureteene thousand persons, though in circuite it be little lesse then *Florence*: the Walles for the most part are of Bricke, but in some places of square Stone, the Ramparts conuenient, the Bulwarkes not many nor correspondent: the peece of cheefest import is the Castle vpon the South-west of the towne, wherein is a garrison of fiftie, with munition and other necessaries, for the vse as is abouesaide of keeping the Citty in awe. The scite hereof is in a Plaine vpon the Riuer *Arno*, which passeth through the middest therof with one bridge onely, and falleth into the Sea some sixe miles belowe; whereby it appeareth that the land hath lately gotten much vpon the Sea on this coast, as we finde in diuers places vpon our coast in England, for that in the time of *Strabo* he reporteth, it was but twenty furlongs off, which is two miles and a halfe distant from the Sea.

Out of this Riuer is cut a Ditch from this Towne to *Liuorno*, fifteene miles long, for the more conuenient carriage of such wares as arriue in that Roade, and are thence conueyed by wa-ter from *Pisa* vp to *Florence*; and so by land into other places of *Tuscany*, *Romagna*, *Lombardia*, and *Rome* also. The Boates wherein these wares are carried are but small, in number betweene six and seauen hundred, which our English Merchants *Burlando* (gibing) call the great Dukes fleete. The nature of this plaine is for the most part marish, though in times past it was fit either for pasture or tillage, as by the commoditie there-out reaped for the maintenance of the cittie appeareth by *Guicciard*. But since that the Cittie being conquered by the *Florentines*, and most of the auncient *Pisani* departed, some into *Sicilia*, other into *Sardegna*, *Corsica*, and other places, preferring a voluntary bannishment before a forced subiection: the Towne hath beene so desolate as there haue not beene people suffi-cient to maintaine this plaine against the fury of *Arno*, whereby it hath beene much wasted, as hath partly beene said.

There are, besides the commodity of the seat, lying betweene *Florence* and *Liuorno*, three other causes, that this Cittie is fre-quented, otherwise it would be very desolate. The first is the  
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especially fauour of the Prince himselfe, who because he was here borne, beareth an extraordinary affection to the place, as by his often comming and long tarrying appeareth. Another is, for that it is the place where properly the order of S. Stephen is resident, where the Knights of this order haue their Pallace, Officers, and other dependances. The last, for that there is a studie as they call it in Italy (a Vniuersity) erected by Cosmo, and is reasonably frequented.

In this Towne among many other Churches and Monasteries, is that excellent Fabrick of the Battisterio, built (they say) in fourteene dayes: It standeth hard at the West-end of the Duomo, which for the beauty thereof might haue compared with that of Siena so much commended, had it not by mishap beene burned in the yeare 1595. in October; it is now in the repairing at the great Dukes charges: Howbeit in liew hereof, he hath raised the price of his Salt fiue Quatrini in the pound, throughout this State for the space of ten yeares: and it is to be thought (by examples too many of like nature in other places) that being once granted, it shall not then be ended. On the North of this Church is the Campo Santu, as they call it, their Golgetha or place of buriall, the earth whereof was brought in ships from the Terrasanta, as their Histories record: & as they affirme, the dead consume there in foure and twenty houres. Not farre from this place is an old ruinous Tower, called by them (Torre di fame) in memory of the mercylesse crueltie of Ruggiero the Archbishop, who vpon suspition of treason immured therein Conte Hugolino a Noble Pisano, and his foure children, causing them to be starued: of whom Dante the Poet in his 33. chapter *dell inferno*, very elegantly discourses, faining, that there for a torment due to such a fact, the Conte lireth vpon the Bishops-head with a neuer satisfied greedinesse. Here is also an Arsenall wherein the Duke hath two or three of his Galleys in mend ing, but no new in the making, neither Artillerie or any thing els worth the remeinbrance. Heere the great Duke hath a Pallace, but so ill contrived, and so vnworthy the presence of so great a Prince, as it is said, the deuiser thereof looking

looking for great praise at the Dukes hands for his rare plotte, and finding after that it disliked his Highnesse, in a melancholie discontent threw himselfe into the *Arno*: he hath also another lesser house lately built, wherein are many small Statues of Marble and Mettall, many Medalles and Pictures, some painted, others of Feathers very exquisitely artificiall. Besides pieces of Vre vntried both of golde & siluer, Corall vnpollished, whereof yee shall see some growe vpon the Sculles of dead-men, with infinite such like, more delightfull to be seene, then needfull to be related of. Vnto this building ls adioyning a Garden of Simples, not much inferiour to that of *Padoa*: But the thing of best vse and greatest cost, and therefore vnfittest to be forgotten, is a Conduit of water vpon Arches into the Towne from *Valdeculci* ffeue mile off, wherewith the better part of the Cittie is serued. Other buildings I remember not, worth the remembryng; except the *Campanile*, which Architecture hath this varietie, that the top thereof by a line perpendicularly downe-falling to the ground, and sheweth that it is prominent or hanging ouer the *Basis* ten or twelue foote by the square. As for the Cittie it selfe, it is the greater halfe voide, wherein is nothing but Gardens of hearbes and rootes; the houses that there be, are for the most part so old and ruinous, as that the great Duke hath lately giuen commandement, that euery one according to his abilitie, should either build new, or at the least repaire and trim them on the out-sides for the better grace of the towne. So vnlike is *Pisa* to it selfe; which in former times was able to wage battaile at land with the *Florentines*, at Sea with the *Genoese*; yea and with *Venice* also: And before that, to conquere *Sardigna*, to ouercome the King of *Carthage*, and bring him prisoner to *Rome*, to recouer *Palermo* in *Sicilia* from the *Sarazens*, to assist the *French* with a mighty Nauie in their voyagē to the holy land, to send fortie ships to the recouery of *Alexandria* for *Almerick King of Ierusalem*, to aide th'Emperour *Frederick Barbarossa* against the state of *Mithan*; besides many other their famous and victorious conquests; wherevpon one saith: *Erat Pisa, altera Roma fuisse Troes, fuit Ilium, nunc seges ubi*

*ubi Troia fuit.*

To speake of the diuers gouernments of this Towne, and the many alterations it hath suffered, were a discourse, though not altogether needless or impertinent, yet so large or rather tedious, as would be altogether disproportionate to my former breuitie: I will leauue it therefore altogether vntouched, and go forward my iourney to *Siena*.

This Cittie chalengeth the title of much Antiquitie, being *Siena*, built by *Sanesius* the sonne of *Remus*, *Romulus* his brother, which may seeme to carry some matter of truth, for that the Armes of the Cittie is a Wolfe, with two Infants sucking vpon her: which Armes are to be seene in diuers places of the Towne both in Marble and Mettall. It is called by *Pliny*, *Colonia Senensis*, and by *Tacitus* in the 20. booke of his Historie, but whether it was built by *Sanesius*, or the *Galli Senones* that went with *Brennus* into *Italy*, I leauue indifferent to the Reader: this last is alleaged out of *Ptolomies* Fables, though I rather subscribe to the former. It is seated vpon the tops of diuers small hils, very neerely meeting together, which with their declinings makes the Scituacion very vneuen, and such as I haue not else-where seene: by reason whereof it is iudged infinitely strong, as not hauing any commanding hill neere, whereby it might be prejudiced, nor any way by which forces may be brought before it; saue onely at the two gates towards *Rome* and *Florence*: & yet there so narrow, as there cannot possibly come aboue ten Souldiers *alla filata* in rancke. So that as *Liuorno* is the key by which all forces must passe that by Sea would approach *Florence*; so is *Siena* the Porte or gate by which they must enter, that eyther from *Naples* or the Churches state would come to sanoye it. For from the way of *Romagna* or *Bologna*, there is very hard passage for an Armie, so sharpe and inaccessible are the mountaines, which being well considered by *Cosmo* (then Duke) of *Florence*, no maruaile though he never rested till he had got the towne and whole State of *Siena* into his hands.

The meanes thus; The Cittie about fortie ffeue yecres since, being besieged by the forces of the Pope, *Charles* the fist, and

*Cosmo* Duke of *Florence*, rendred it selfe at length to the Emperour, and receaued a garrison of *Spaniards*, but keeping still their manner of gouerment which they before vsed. The Emperour by earnest sollicitation of the *D. d'Alua*, in whom the Duke of *Florence* his purse(they say)had got him great interest, was content to render it into the Duke of *Florence* his possession, for certaine summes of money to be paid, besides a yearly rent, with a recognition that it was holden of him, and certaine other couenants which some say were neuer performed, as also that this contract was made without the consent of *Philip* king of *Spaine* that now is, whereof were not his hands full of actions in other places, it is thought some stirre might arise. So that *Cosmo de' Medici* the second Duke of *Florence* vniteth that state with this of *Siena*, which is by estimation bigger then the state of *Millan*, and the most fruitefull part of all *Tuscany*. Whereupon he altered his Stile which before was *Dux Florentiae*, and intituled himselfe *Dux Florentiae & Senarum*.

The ornaments of speciall note in this towne are three: The first is the *Duomo*, no great but a faire and rich Fabrick, all the out-side of Marble, so is the Pauement, the roofe gilt; & at the foote thereof, are very curiously cut in stone and gilded, also all the Popes from the first till within these eighty yeares. The second is the Citterne, a place, whereout of the Rocke floweth abundance of waters, and haue their Citterne and Pooles very well cut of Stone to receaue the same. The last is the *Piazza*, one hundred and sixtie paces in length, and one hundred and ten in breadth, vety steepely descending. At the head hereof is a very faire Fountaine, and at the foote is the Pallace of the *Signoria*, round about it are very faire and high houses. I haue not seene a Market-steede, excepting that of *Sancto Marco* in *Venice*, so beautifull. The fairest Pallace of this Cittie, not excepting the great Dukes, is that of the *Piccol' homini*, begun by *Pius Secundus*, and ended by *Pius Tertius* both of this family; which needs not much enuie the most stately of those in *Florence*. The walles of this Cittie, as also the houses and streets are all of Bricke.

They

The arme  
of S. Iohn  
Baptist.

They haue here (they say) the arme of *S. John Baptist*, which they very religiously and with much reuerence hold as a relick; It was sent by the Turke to *Aeneas Silvius Piccol' huomini*, being Pope, by the name of *Pius Secundus*, in lieu whereof, this Pope sent him the halfe Moone for a Crest.

There is a Fortresse at the North-west of this towne, reputed *The For-*  
*strong*: howbeit the forme being Quadrangular and therefore tresse,  
the angles not so obtuse as in those of fwe or more; it is iudged  
of moderne Enginers, as namely of *Maggi*, a late Italian writer  
in the subiect of fortifications, not to answer the reputation it  
hath in generall. The Artillery herein (they say, for we may  
not enter it) much and good: the garrison but fwe and twen-  
tie at this present, the end, is to command the towne vpon any  
occasion.

This Citty like that of *Pisa*, is noted to be much decaied since People de-  
their subiection to the family *Medici*, there not being now a-  
cayed.  
boue two and twenty thousand persons, where in times past  
were alwayes aboue fiftie. The Gentlemen of this Citty are *The Gen-*  
noted to be generally more ciuill, affable, & courteous to stran-  
gers then they are in other places. They liue altogether vpon *Their*  
their reuenues, without exercising any trade of Merchandize *course of*  
or exchange vpon the Banck, which course notwithstanding,  
all the Nobilitie of *Florence* and *Pisa*, cuen to the great Duke  
himselfe do take: as likewise they of *Venice*, *Genoa*, *Rome*, and  
generally all places and states of *Italy*, except *Naples*.

Hauing in briefe discoursed of three chiefe Citties of *Tusca-* *ny*, *Florence*, *Siena*, and *Pisa*, which deserue so to be called, either  
for that each of them hath in times past had her seuerall State,  
or for that they be the Seates of three Archbishopricks: it now  
remaineth I aduertise of the commodities of this countrie, be-  
ginnig with the Mountaines and their fruites, which because  
they be for the most part craggie and barren, as they allowe  
those that possesse them but little profit; so they yeeld me that  
write of them but little matter: no maruaile then though the  
discourse be like the hilles themselues, barraine.

There is digged out of these hilles a kinde of Free-stone, Free-stone,

The Ar-  
tillery.

*The Gen-*  
tric.

*course of*  
*living*.

Commo-  
dities out  
of Moun-  
taines.

Divers co-  
lours.

Marble di-  
uers co-  
lours.

The build-  
ing of Italy  
fairet then  
ours, and  
why.

Acornes.

Oliues.

passing hard, of colour according to the nature of the place whereout it is taken, white, redde, and black, or to say more properly, enclining to these colours: of all which sorts there be in *Florence* and elsewhere, very gallant and stately Pallaces builded. They haue also in many places, pitts of Marble, white, blew, and party-coloured excellent good: namely in the Territory of *Massa*, but especially in the Mountaines of *Carrara* and *Lunigiana*: hence dayly they dig for the building of their Churches and Pallaces of *Genoa*, *Florence*, *Bologna*, *Rome*, and *France* also, whereout might be digged enough to serue a world of building, if the transporting it into other places were not so chargeable, or rather the impossibility to bring it from the pits where it is digged, to the Port where they should load it, by reason of the cragginess of the Rocks. Of these Marble Pits *Inuenal* seemes to make mention, where he saith:

*Procubuit veluti qui saxa ligustica portat  
Axis.*

And *Vberti* in his sixth Canto saith thus:

*E vedimmo Carrara, que la gente,  
Troua il candido Marmo in tanta copia,  
Che n' assai haurebbe tutta l' oriente.*

This is the reason the buildings of *Italy* so farre exceed ours, especially their Churches: as for any other thing in that land, the truth is they can no way compare with vs, nor make good the great opinion the world hath thereof.

The other fruites of these Mountaines which are indeed vse-full and necessary for the sustenance of the inhabitants, are Acornes, Oliues, and Chesnuts: of Acornes especially in the state of *Siena* are very great store, wherewith, ouer and besides those they eate themselues, they feede their Swine, not hauing of Beanes or Pease to spare for this purpose; The great Duke maketh yeerely of certaine woods he hath in this State aboue a thousand Duckets.

They haue also Oliues, but not in such plentifull manner as to be able to send any Oyle into other parts: for they want hereof to serue their owne turnes; being a commoditie so necessarie,

necessary, as without it, it were not possible they should liue, feeding as they doe vpon nothing els but cold fruites and rawe herbes; insomuch as the *Villano* and poorer sort feedeth not vpon flesh once a moneth, and then most sparingly; as for Butter <sup>Their scart-  
fity and  
necessity.</sup> and Cheese, were it not for *Lombardie* they should scarce know what it meant.

The third benefit of the hils is the Chesnut, the countrimans *Chesnats*. bread, as water is his drinke, who (except he be sick) which we then refuse, drinketh no Wine, and except very seldome eateth *Their vse.* nothing but those Nuts; the sterility of the countrey being such as not to afford bread of corne for one fourth part of the yeare. *Corne scarce.* Such is the wretched penurie of this Nation, abounding in nothing but in quaint termes, which discouer their humour, but satisfie not their hunger; whereof shall be more fitly discoursed hereafter. It may heere suffice to inferre that the greater part of this State being hilles, and the most of those barraine, & much of these other nothing but Stone: no maruaile then, though they build like the *Agrigentines*, and liue like the *Scythians*, though they dwell like Princes, & feed like Pesants, though their houses be great and their tables small, though the women haue in one day more riches on their back then they spend in three ages on the sustenance of their body. And yet that glory and wealth there is, is in the Cittie, and in the hands of few, to whom all the fruites of the country are conueyed: as for the Artificer he can doe no more but liue, whereof scarce one in a city euer groweth rich, and the poore *Contadines* life is such, as if naturally he were not proud in this extreame miserie, it would moue any stranger to pittie his estate.

I haue stood in my lodging on a market-day, when the coūtry hath come in, and when commonly they attire themselues in their best robes: yet haue I obserued seauē or eight bare legged, for one otherwise, and in this proportion haue they passed for two or threē hours, the rest of their apparel holding suitable conformity therewithall; yet cannot this people talke but with his hatt on his head, and with his hands by his sides, with action also and words, either beseeming none at all, or at least one in better clothes.

But to leauet the high minds & low fortunes of the *Tuscanes*,  
the great hilles and small commodities of their countrie, vpon  
which we may well turne the Prouerbe, *Pareurunt Montes, exit  
Mus*; I will discend into their valleys, which indeed (not to  
defraude them of their right) are like *Gardens*, whether you  
respect the small quantitie of each mans seuerall, or their dili-  
gence in their keeping, or to say truth, the variety of the fruities  
thereof.

For the first I can auow, that going vp with another English  
Gentleman to the top of a steepe hill, some two miles high right  
ouer *Prato*, to giue our eye the view of that pleasant valley, we  
could not discerne any one peece of ground aboue one Acre  
and a halfe in our opinions, (except the great Dukes pastures  
about his Pallace of *Poggio*) all which ground being bare and  
the hedges greene with the *Vines*, gaue a very pleasant and de-  
lightfull prospect, resembling very fitly a Checker table. Now  
if the good Starres raise one of them to the fortune to be pos-  
sessed of one of these garden-plots, and a *Cappanuccia* (a silly  
shelter couered with Reedes) therupon yee shall neuer get him  
from the discourse of his *Villa*, his *Podere*, and his *Entrata*, his  
farmes, his lands, and his rents; that one would thinke him  
Lord of some goodly Pallace, and as much land at the least as  
a Nag might well pace about in a day; when, if we come to see  
it, it prooues not God knowes aboue the *Giornata* (a dayes  
journey) of a Snaile, and the poore beast is taken *domage fai-*  
*sant* in danger to be seized vpon to the Lords vse of the soile;  
for Snailes, Frogs, Hedg-hogs, and such like, are accounted  
among the *Delicatezze*, the delicates of *Italy*.

As for their diligence in digging, setting, sowing, manuring  
and weeding of their ground, it is such as therewith the Dutch  
diligence in their Roote-grounds may not compare. And lastly  
for the variety of those commodities which these Valleys  
yeelde, it shall suffice to comprehend them vnder these  
three heads; Fruite, Herbage, and Graine, with particular  
mention of such as I remember, howbeit in *Italian* names,  
because many of them growe not, nor are yet Christened in  
England.

Fruite.

vnde sunt  
 pluio, rufidore  
 idem unde  
 l, cast - Fruite:  
 duncy Une.  
 Fichi.  
 Aranci.  
 Albicocchi.  
 Pesche.  
 Mele.  
 Limoni.  
 Cedri.  
 Manderle.  
 Noci.  
 Albatre.  
 Cotogne.  
 Poponi.  
 Cedrioli.  
 Cocomeri.  
 Zucchi.  
 Mele granate  
 Ceriegi.  
 Pere.  
 Nespole.  
 Susine.  
 Cypolli.  
 Agli.  
 Mori.

## State of Tuscanie.

Herbage.
Finocchio.
Lattuga.
Inuidia.
Cicerbita.
Borragine.
Fiorancio.
Aneto.
Bietola.
Canolo.
Spinacci.
Basilico.
Radici.
Porri.
Carotte.
Rape.
Fior di Velluto.
Nepitella.
Menta.
Cardi.
Gobbi.
Selerii.
Pastinacchi.

Graine.
Formento.
Orzo.
Segala.
Miglio.
Sagina.
Panico.
Fane.
Ceci.
Faginoli.
Piselli.
Riso.
Farro.
Gioglio.
Mochio.
Vena.
Spelta.

38

as we divide our  
 fieldes in syring  
 over a little royle land  
 made i y form of dillall  
 tables: for whet fad  
 farmed, wher are y  
 men gosomel o feeding  
 and rough & yelde land  
 of lime oor ther, before  
 useth tolle dillall tow  
 yf herfolding & fortal  
 ther day after noon  
 nor later for chayels  
 herfolding: fayrelye  
 & unfayrelye roades  
 nor run you fable & folde  
 tode multe - oure  
 betw doo dead ylly melle  
 foldes & other royle we  
 so few, full & leane  
 pone royle ior t glory of Engla  
 p' 223. ior t glory of Engla  
 on yng fayrefold amosty to  
 goodes y yondre as hawdy i  
 dia: foffe yondre foist (hawdy bell  
 ac: and y land) round stony  
 fronde hawdy & iader yandred  
 abule (as abule) wodds folldes  
 boafe, folde folde  
 yng fayrefold  
 markell yng  
 feoffe, foffe  
 wodde, e  
 dyndall  
 fronde suor  
 myt ret  
 (hawdy ha raw  
 of his crost)  
 but fumme  
 v marbel

These are the frutes of the earth whereof they feed, for of  
 others I speake not: and to give these their due, many of them  
 be very delicate and pleasant; as their Uva Moscutella, and Ri-  
 maldesca, their Figs, Apricocks, Musk-mellons, and such like:  
 howbeit considering either the littel time they last, or the small  
 quantitie they haue thereof, the benefit is not so great as is im-  
 agined; for none of these last named lasteth aboue two mo-  
 neths, except it be the grape, whereof some few are hanged vp  
 in the Palco roofe, to serue the richer sort in Lent. As for the  
 poorer, their chiefeſt food is Herbage all the yeare through. v marbel  
 yng fayrefold, fayrefold with y wort. stuff. gr. 3d. Indeed v 306

v fayrefold how are not so many broulifull shrubbs (dryed) haue  
 tynch juices & yoyolys). broulifull, yoyolys, fayrefold  
 v fayrefold, fayrefold & yoyolys. delinde fayrefold  
 v wortlye dillallone of so mire grade 3d v 306

Indeed for the moneths of August and September, while Grapes be ripe, he keepeth a continuall feast, making them his onely food.

**The Vine.**

The Vine which without comparison is the greatest commodity of *Tuscany*, if not of *Italy*, hath these uses. Of the Grape they feed, of the iuyce they make Wine; of the shreadings they make small bundles, like our Fagots of gaule in *Cambridge*, & sell them for two *quatrini* a peece for firing: of their leaues they feed their Oxen, or else dung their land; & lastly of the stones they feed their Pigion, which after the Vintage they riddle out of the Grape being dryed, and these they sell at 20. *soldi* the Staic.

There are diuers sorts of Grapes, the names of such as I remeber are these; *Vua Canaiola*, good either to eate or for Wine; *Passerina* a small Grape, whereof Sparrowes feed, good onely for Wine; *Trebbiana* the best sort of white Grapes for Wine, whereof they make their *Vin Trebbiano*, *Zibibbo*; these are dryed for Lent: *Moscatella* with a taste like Muske, not for Wine, but to eate; *Vua grossa* not to eate, but for Wine; *Raserrutta*, of it selfe neither to eate, nor for Wine, but a few of these put among a great vessell of Wine, giueth it a colour, for which vse it onely serueth; *San Columbana* and *Rimaldesca* a very delicate Grape, either for Wine or to eate; *Luglisi* which hath his name of the moneth of July wherein it is ripe, better to eate then for Wine; and lastly *Cerisiana*, named for the taste it hath like a Cherry, better for Wine then to eate.

They haue also as many names for their Figs, the best are the *Brugiotti*, which being needlesse to recount, as also to stand thus particularly vpon all the rest, I will omit to speake: onely in a word I will speake of the Mulberry, for that the mention therof draweth consequently therewithall the discourse of the Silke-worme, which being another of the greatest commodities of *Tuscany* I may not forget.

**Silke-wormes.**

In the two moneths of May and June this worme laboureth, the rest of the yeare they be onely seedes kept in some warme & close places, where they may neither be indangered by cold

*fo. 4 of our goode (admiral y & right of launce i shire of lyl) nor  
done in maste yle of Europe) ab bery ouelindis & fo doreys (yngly) &  
wold swyngell all ther edifis & dores wth a shire wallis acom  
y wall on ays yore fited i a ouelindis of lylis & stony feldis of  
france, engl & Italy or wch ouel quatenber have more glorynt ou  
equelous nches tene any oys broode & wod*

nor thunder, for either of these destroyeth them. When she hath wrought her selfe into a bottome, they put it into waime water to finde the end thereof, but if they would preserue the worme for seed, then they finde the end without putting the bottome into water (for this killeth the worme) which being found, and wound vpon a Cane, they suffer the worme to lye vpon a wollen cloath, till growing to a Flie it engender with another, whereof come infinite seeds, which are as is said, kept close all the yeare till the beginning of May, when they are laide in the Sunne and so hatched, but for want of heate, and to haue of them betimes, the women will hatch them in their bosomes. So soone as they be wormes they haue of Mulberie Mulberry leaues giuen them, whereof they onely feed, to which purpose are daily great store of trees planted: the leafe is sold at foure quattrini the pound. Of this sort of trees the great Duke hath planted such plenty along the banckes of Arno, and about the Ditches of townes and other publick places, as it is probably judged they will within these few yeares be annually worth thirty thousand Duckets. And whereas heretofore the Silke-workers of Florence, besides their owne, were vsually wont to buy from Naples, Lombardie, and Greece, so much silke as yearly amounted to three hundred thousand Duckets, it is now thought that shortly they shall haue enough of their owne; for yee shall obserue, that they of Siena are richer in lands then they of Florence, and therefore trade lesse in all Mechanicall professions: *I saulsi ricchi d' entada, i fiorentini ricchi per industria:* which is the reason that the Florentines exceed the other so farre herein: insomuch as it is thought here are yeerly made of Florence Rashes to the worth of two Millions of Duckets, & of Silkes and Cloathes of gold and siluer, to the value of three Millions; hence grew this Axiome of Aristotle, *The more barrainge the soyle, the more rich the Citie:* as he obserued by Athens in Greece, and we finde by Norremburg in Germanie. Good reason they of Florence haue to encrease this commoditie, by all possible meanes, without the which I see not how they should be able (not exhausting in few yeares their estate) to be

*very laddes consider it as a glas F mostly vngod releuued  
orthewards, vili vro, e hyst wme, not people an othe ally: o world, of your  
boies & subtiles, fadys, vrofys, & st. Katharine or it deant hanis  
for furriblalnd, for i part, you haue o bolke sulfe ouer o  
woldes are gods, fe stollent, lauged, pellayd men or, the  
marbut, lassys, obfusly, wrota*

reliued with the necessarie commodities of other countries: as Corne from *Sicilia*, Leather from *Barbaria*, Tinne, Lead, Hearing, Chauiar, and other such prouision from England, & from diuers other places other things as needfull: their State not having any Marchandize to spare, except a little Alume to counteruaile this great charge withall. So that their helpe is an industrious paine-taking in the making of these silkes, their clothes of gold and siluer, their Rashes, and painting of Leather for Hangings (a trade much vsed among them) howbeit the matter it selfe comming from *Spaniel* and other countries, wherevpon they worke, and onely the workmanship their owne, the aduantage can be but small.

Another helpe is their egregious & incredible *Parsimony* in feeding, as also their frugality from extraordinary spending, for should they either fare, or exceed in other charges, as we do in this countrey, it were impossible but their state should be ruined.

Concerning Herbage, I shall not need to speake, but that it is the most generall food of the *Tuscan*, at whose table a Sallet is as ordinary, as Salt at ours; for being eaten of all sorts of persons, & at all times of the yeare: of the riche because they loue to spare; of the poore, because they cannot choose; of many Religious, because of their vow, of most others because of their want: it remaineth to beleue that which themselues confess; namely, that for every horse-load of flesh eaten, there is ten cart loades of hearbes and rootes; which also their open Markets and priuate tables doe witnessse, and whereof if one talke with them fasting, he shall haue sensible feeling.

But for the better proofe of the little flesh here spent, it shall not be amisse to remember what the Chancellor of *Prato* told me concerning this matter, who seemed by his discourse a man of good vnderstanding, & who ought by his office to haue the knowledge hereof very familiar; vpon some conference with him had about the great Dukes impositions and *Gabell* which he had in that state, he tolde me among diuers other matters, which shalbe remembred hereafter, that he had out of *Prato* & the precincts thereof, a thousand Duckets communib[us] annis for

*francly*, *the lord may yourwyse to traffique & drayage* *250 the*  
*or building baly maner* *or reward p comod*; *not tolde the chancellor*  
*helpe a fealefynne brydwey of a ther fideys or the forth earthen*  
*covertly of aaylode* *from fideys to report new deynter e oderward stet*  
*only e daret e bablet or fideys i0 ayll bude e letysfachysg*

the flesh there eaten, at the rate of fiue *denari* the pound, for so much he hath: Now if we reduce Duckets to *denari* (which are the fourth part of a *Quattrino*) & deuide that number by fiue, we shall finde the number of pounds of flesh eaten there, after the rate of twelue ounces to the pounds (for so is their weight of all things whatsoeuer) which summe by the rule of three we may reduce to pounds English of sixteene ounces, and then deuiding by fourteene, know how many Stone is there eaten in a yeare. According to which computation we shall finde 18000 Stone: the people there being, as is already said 16000 persons; so that there is little more then a Stone a peece for the yeare: a proportion which in Newgate market, and S. Nicholas-shambles will hardly be beleued.

Pythagoras found by the dimension of the foote the perfect Rieratte of Hercules & Phidias of Athens, found by the paw of the Lion, the true proportion of the whole body: so by this small store of flesh spent in Prato, may well be conceiued what proportion is spent in the whole state of Tuscany: It may here not impertinently be remembred (speaking of flesh) of a kinde of meate which the *Italian* hath out of *Barbaria*, howbeit in no great quantity, which they call *Micista*, it is a powder made of Beefe dried & sold in their shops; for the nature of the flesh of Africk being such not to take Salt, (the *Alarbaes* of that countrey) dwelling in tents, which they alwayes remoue when their cattle haue eaten vp the pasture, to some other place, doe bake their flesh in Ovens so drie, till it may be beaten to powder, which done, they barrell it vp, & carry with them for a kind of very good food. And I haue heard also that the *Tartars* bring of this into the warres, wherof they feed, and wherwith putting about two handfuls of it into water, they giue their horses, which without any other prouinder keepeth them fat & lusty.

As concerning their graine in Tuscany, it is very much in kind *Graine*, & very little in quantity: wherof most years they haue too sensible feeling, & are supplied out of other places, as *Sicilia*, *Sardinia*, & somtimes *England*, & the East-countries: they haue of Wheat more then either Rie or Barley, yet of neither sufficient:

*If man boy is us forst aduallid amost leau, wolle ad prouide on deport  
So & they doe from corry who roll & bounde neverdowle, for they  
one of them haue a hufinge alle for, yll the o' Catterfod of nob' Day  
voule to haue for profit all for e'w'f & era doonlards and  
over newly rafed haedes, or lindred by se' Pala*

as for their *Sagina*, *Panico*, *Miglio*, *Surgo Turco*, and such like, they are fine names, but make but course meale and bread only for the poorer sort, who, (might they not want thereof) would thinke their market much amended.

## Haruest.

Their haruest is in *June*; they mowe their Wheate and Rie, & reape their Barley, quite contrary to the common course in England: they cut their corne while it is somewhat greene, I take it, least it should shill: they suffer it afterwards to stand in shocks till it be well withered and dryed, then making a flore on the ground where it grew, they presently thresh it; & stack vp the Straw for their necessarie vses: the same ground which hath carried this crop, if it be in heart is againe presently tilled, and sowed with *Miglio*, *Panico*, *Sagina*, or some pulse or other, which againe they reape in September. They measure their corne by the *Staio*, as we ours by the Strike or Bushell, it containeth in weight fiftie five pounds, at twelue ounces the poud. And as we measure our land by the Acre, so they theirs by the *Staioro*, which taketh his name of the *Staio*: because one of these parcels of land, if it be on the hilles, will aske a *Staio* of corne to seed it, otherwise in the valleys euery measure will ordinarily seed four *Straiora*, I suppose that six of these make one of our Acres. The country-man will stirre of them (as we call it) eighteene with his two yoake of Oxen; the one yoake feeding while the other laboureth in one day. He hath for his labour four *Crazie* a peece, which is three-pence starling; so that he and his beasts earne some four shillings six-pence ster-ling the day: how this agreeth with our rate in *England*, I can- not say, I went not out so good a husband. The *staioro* doth ordinarilie yeeld seauen and eight *staia* crop, which is little short of the proportion of four quarters an Acre.

## Soile.

The nature of the soile is generally light and sandy, laid in small ridges like the fields of *Norfolke*, which as I take it, argu- eth the lightnesse. But by reason of the Citties & great townes neare, and the number of people, it is much forced, and made more fruitfull. For there are those who all their life time doe no- thing but with their Asse go vp and downe the cities, gathering

*or lyround by y fele for ferme purysse, but now ther leauet d' vp  
riauyng of assairts to supponours eyg. Indeayng of warres, for mery  
dith in y foig, & an offor, for lo y stonar baile, & dyngde  
dith orlo y storage. ha fulte off leye off fele or may alredy  
for fone warly of deyld. 260 & one wher i farde buy all  
fute this of deth of deth of deth of deth or frouor*

vp the dung in the streetes, and carrying it to the land of those with whom they haue bargained , paying out of euery Asses burthen one *quattrino* to the Duke before they passe the gates, but this is a discourse for another place.

It remaineth to speake of the Salt, another cōmoditic which *Salt.* they haue here in *Tuscany* in some reasonable manner. It is very white and good , much better then that of the Churches Salt, which hath almost the colour of Saw-dust , or that of *Liguria* which is little better . The two places from whence they haue this commoditie, is the Citty of *Grossetta* in the *Maremma* , and the pits not far from the Citty of *Volterra*: howbeit they make of it at these pits in greater measure ; where it is reported are daily made throughout the yeare twenty foure *Moggie* , euery of these measures being foure and twenty *Staia*, that is of our measure some sixteene Strike a peece : so that there are dayly made 48. quarters . They know when it is sufficiently boiled by the throwing in of an Egge, for if it sinck, then is it not yet perfect, but if it swimmeth (*a galla*) then they boile it no longer. There are not farre hence ( may I digresse so farre) waters of such a scalding and sulphurious nature, as if a Dog or such like creature be tied to a rope and throwne therein for the space of a quarter of an houre, yee pull out nothing but the bare bones. And true it is, that the aire here abouts sometimes of the yeare is so contagious, as the inhabitants abandon their homes. The place being so dangerous , I will dwell no longer vpon the discourse thereof, but returne to the Salt-pits, out of which the great Duke maketh no small benefit, considering he buyeth it at one *quattrini* the pound , and selleth it againe at twelue, and in some parts of his State at fifteene , which being bought at this rate commeth to two Duckets the *Staio* : Howbeit, it is said of some , that it costeth him five *quattrini* the pound, which I rather beleue , and so his gaine is but two third parts . Sure I am that there is a *Bando* vpon a great penaltie, that none presume to buy but of his officers onely . And seeing here is mention made of the great Dukes impositions vpon Salt, I will also annex his gaine raised by Wheate, though I must confess their

*Sulphurius  
waters ef-  
fect.*

*for shalde fad ore rained away will F. 3. wolle wylde shalde place  
in fayre wylde, wylle a surfyg bawdy of fad shalde out fide. Edifys  
re. therlozans, ouder laymed of shalde or hawdy after day sayon  
place of hanley or woodland wylde fad shalde to aduertisyn g the god  
further fad yf yf wil wardenbaud or wardenal, or lynes  
disroulmed att thownd or cul of a fullan a dand.*

place more proper when I shall speake of his Reuenew.

Wheat en-  
grossed.

After the *Raccolta*, (haruest) when wheate is at the cheapeſt, a note is taken of euery mans particular croppe, how much he hath, what will ſeed his ground; and ſerue his house; the reſt the officers will buy at the price of the Market; he is not (as I take it) di rectly forced to ſell it: but a *Bando* is ſent forth, that no man ſhall buy, and ſo by confequent, because he muſt needs haue money, with an vnwilling willingneſſe he is content they ſhall haue it. This is bought vnder pretence to haue the Citties well ſto red, whether it is carryed into the great Dukes Granaries, in which places for any accident either of dearth or of warre, (though for the one the countrey is well ſecured) here is very good ſto re to be found. It was reported in the *Magizini* (Store-hou ſes) at *Pisa* when I was there, there was no leſſe then one hundred and fifty thou ſand *Staia*. And it was like wife helden for certaine, that ſome yeare ſ of plentie, he buieth eight or nine hundredth thou ſand, at the rate commonly of four or five *Liners* the *Staio*, (a *Liner* is nine-pence ſterling) and ſelleth it againe as this yeare he did for aboue ten. Now by buying ſu ch an infinite Maffe, and ſelling it at ſu ch a rate, the gaine is eaſily computed to be almoſt as many Duckets as were *Staia* bought. His ſubiects will tell vs of a Millions gaine ſome yeare, but that were infinite. Now leaſt when the new Corne comes into his Granaries, he ſhould not vent the old, as being fuſtie, or hauing ſome other fault, a *Bando* is ſent out, that the Bakers ſhall bake no other. There is another inconuenience ſtranger then this, a caſe wherein a man may not ſerue himſelfe of his owne, which had it not beene tolde me by a Gentleman *Sanese* of good credit, I ſhould hardly haue beleueed, mu ch leſſe haue aduentured to aduertife thereof. If a Gentleman of *Siena* haue a *Villa* in the Territory of *Mont' Alcina*, neare by; and therein good ſto re of Wheate to ſerue his turne for the maintenance of his house in *Siena*, and whether, it may be with little cost brought, as not being farre off, and where perhaps he cannot well ſpare money to buy of others: notwithstanding he cannot be ſuffered to bring of his owne to his house, but muſt there take of the

*mauour you ſome we may confind of ge aer gala & brok & great  
partes of the rood of flengard & one maled to be refred with a  
dable of ſtronge forrage voluntay & for þre a wilfull uylle of  
our crone wortly and wile uolte belde our knaue roode corragin  
þouȝt norre bontyng of our regent our deuallay*

great Duke to make his prouision. How hurtfull these Monopolies and ingrossings are, the lawes made against them in well gouerned states doe witnesse, and the people where they be practised doe feele.

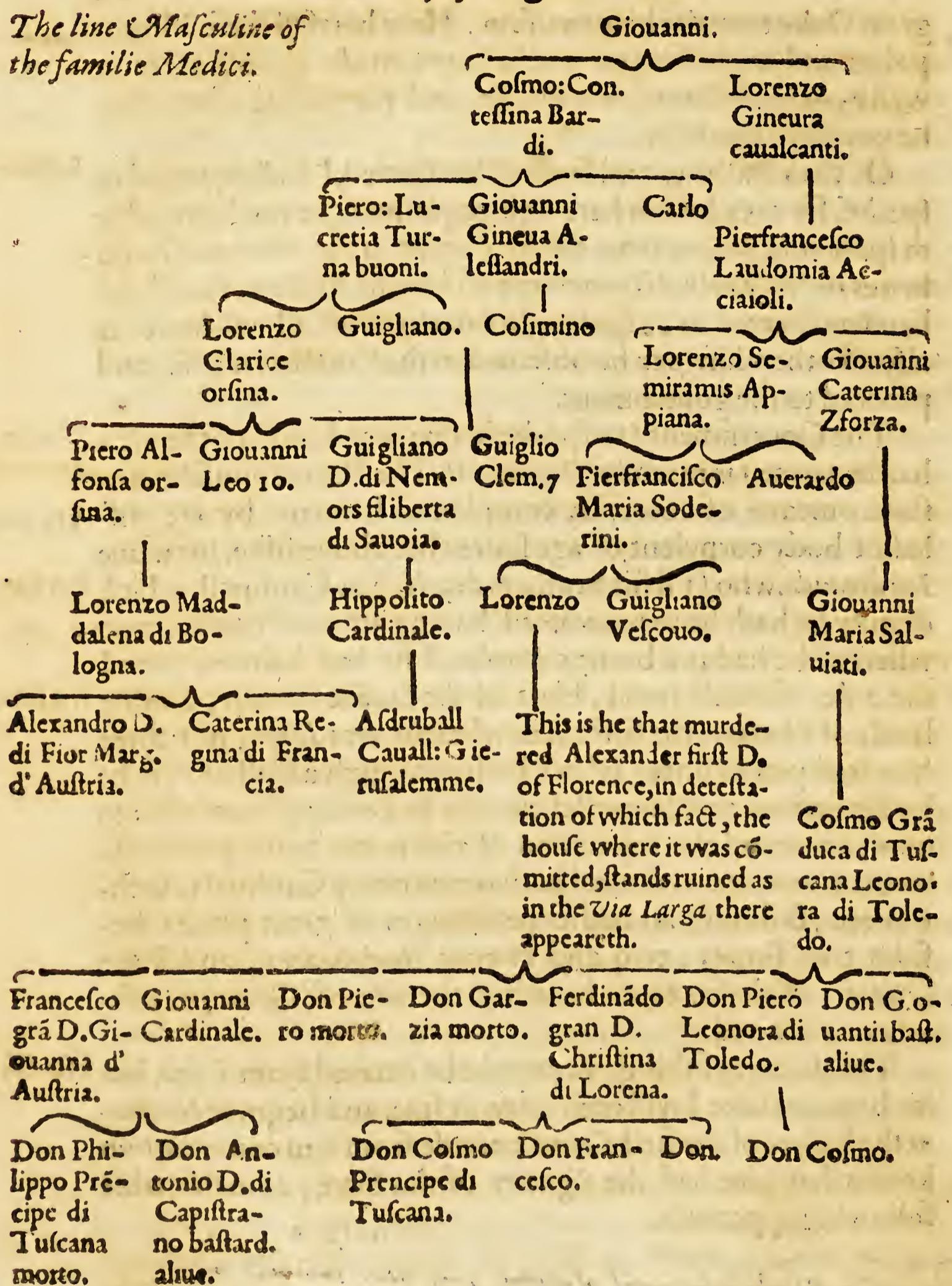
Of their Pastures and feeding for Cattell, I shall not need to speake, for they be not herewith acquainted, as not being able to spare one *Stajora* from tillage, except in the *Maremma* and lowes of *Pisa*, which being little and soone spoken of, and not hauing whereof to be spoken, but that it is litt'e, I will leave: as also all other things to be obserued in the Countrie it selfe, and proceed to the gouernment.

The Gouernment (to speake in one word, and not to vse a harder terme) is merely *Despoticall*. The Prince himselfe is of stature meane, of colour by complexion browne, by age grise led; of body corpulent, of age somewhat aboue fiftie, his name *Ferdinando*, who (till his brothers death) was Cardinall, which dignity he hath since renounced, having attained this Scepter, whereof he had not beene capable, if he had before entered the order of Priest-hood. He is of the familie *Medici*, a noble house of *Florence*, the first raifer whereof was *Lippo*, not three hundred yeares since (whose Father, though a Colliar) yet he by his vertues and his posteritie also succeeding from time to time, aduanced the reputation of this name to the greatnessse wherein now it is: whereof hath beene many Cardinals, Arch-bishops, Bishops, and other personages of great place; besides two Popes, two and twenty *Gonfaloniers*, and foure Dukes: of these, three haue had the title of (Great) as elsewhere is shewed.

The descent of this Prince might be deriuued from *Lippo*, but His descent. for breuities sake I will omit foure or fiue, and begin at *Giovanni* the Father of the first *Cosmo*, because from him come the two houses that haue had the Signory of this State, as in this table following appeareth.

you be a straunger order by syuron or nolande & fo  
wher after of misinformacion of others & so one recorded away  
men living role of report althoyle consider more judicat The  
or shadys would leade you out of these places shalbe gaiffed  
errour yelt are you nevralle of y lound yde shalbe shippid to make  
meide further use of y bridle, then shall shalbe yd yd  
lode or puford paynafford

The line Masculine of  
the familie Medici.



The discent and issue of the great duke appearing in this ta-  
ble, it remaineth that I speake of his parentage. His Highnesse  
matched in the house of *Lorraine*, with *Madama Christina* that  
Dukes daughter *Don Cesare d' Este*, base sonne to *Alphonso* the  
second, the Duke of *Ferrara*, that now is married to his Sister.  
*Don Virginio Orsini* Duke di *Bracciano*, that now with the Dut-  
chesse his wife, sister to the *Cardinal Mont' Alto* is in Court, is  
sonne of another of his Sisters. The Duke of *Montona* married  
*Madama Leonora* of this house; he hath also neere alliance  
with the family *Zforza*: And it was said in the Court at my  
comming from *Lisorno*, that *Ranuccio Farnese* Duke of *Parma*,  
should marry *Maria* sister to *Leonora*, both daughters to *Fran-  
cesco* his brother: Howbeit it was afterwards reported that he  
should marry the sister of Cardinall *Mont' Alto*, neece to *Sixtus  
Quintus*, (whom since he hath married: and *Maria* is wife to  
*Henry the 4. King of France.*

His Armes are six Apples or Balles of gold in a field Azure, His armes vnto which some say is added since his obtaining the Scepter, the Armes of Florence the Flower de Lise. But hauing the authoritie of one so approued as is Guicciardine to the contrary, I rather say with him, that this addition was giuen of speciall fauour to the familie Medici by the house of France; by whom in his first booke page 16. it is plaine, that when Charles the eighth intended his voyage for Naples, he sought (as a league much importing that action) the friendship of the Florentine State, and that as he there saith, if they would not ioyne with him in the seruice, yet at least they would grant him passage for his armie, and viuals for his money: whereto he laboured by letters both the State in generall, and Piero Medici in particular, in which his letters to Medici he putteth him in minde of the manie fauours and honours done by Lewes the eleuenth to Lorenzo his father, and to his auncestors: that they had giuen molte dimostrazioni per conseruation della grandezza d'essi. Many proofes of willingnesse to preserue the Medicies greatnesse: and that they had honour'd in testimonio de benevolenza, l'insegne loro con l'insegne proprie della casa di Francia, in shew of their

loue, their armes with theirs of *France*.

*His Rule.*

Concerning his Stile, it is to be obserued, that since the go-  
vernment came to the hāds of this familie, it hath altered four  
times : for first, when by *Clement* the 7. his meanes, who was a  
*Medici*, *Alexandro* had obtained the signory of *Florence*, he was  
entituled Prior perpetuall : after that matching in the house of  
*Austria*, he was created Duke of *Florence*. The title yet chan-  
ged twice more in the person of *Cosmo*, father to this great duke  
now liuing, for hauing vnted the States of *Florence* and *Siena*,  
he was entituled, *Dux Florentia et Senarum* : And after by *Pius*  
*Quintus* he was created *Magnus Dux Hetruriae* for some speci-  
all seruice done to the Church.

This title of Duke is not of any great antiquitie in *Italy*; for  
although *Titus Livius* speaketh of *Duces*, yet he meaneth Cap-  
taines of Souldiers, or rather such as had the leading of an Ar-  
mie by the Senates appointment, and not such as haue absolute  
authoritie ouer Citties and Countries. The first bringer in of  
this name into *Italy*, was *Longinus* King of the *Lombardes*, one  
hundred sixtie sixe yeares after the declination of the *Ro-  
maine Empire*. By him at the first were created foure, which  
bore their title of these places; *Beneventum*, *Turine*, *Fruily*, and  
*Spoletto*: At which time also were instituted the two Marque-  
satts of *Ancona* and *Treniso*; which still liue in the names,  
though dead in the persons that should haue them: and it  
should seeme in some sort, this title of Marquesse was better  
then that of Duke. For in their language (saith *Biondo*) it  
signifieth *Perpetuum Magistratum*, because they might leaue  
their title and Signorie to their heires, which the Dukes could  
not doe, but by the leaues of the Kings of *Lombardie*. Some  
say this word of *Marques* is deriuued from the *French* (*Mar-  
que*) which signifieth a Prouince; as that a *Marques* should  
signifie the President of a Prouince. Others thinke it is deriuued  
of the Dutch word (*Marchk*) among whom this title is in  
great honor, & signifieth a *Signor* ouer a Country to some limit  
or marke, for so *Altimeri* in his *Scholia* vpon *Cornelius Tacitus*  
interpreteth. As for this title of great Duke, there neuer was  
any before in *Italy*, nor I thinke in *Europe*, but he of *Muscouia*:

Of

Of Dukes there be diuers in this Countrie of Italy, as the Dukes of Ferrara, Muntoua, Parma, Urbino; besides foure and twenty in the kingdome of Naples.

Concerning his claime and right to the Crowne, it is beyond the compasse of a bare relation, (as this is) to dispute how good it is, but rather to discourse what it is, neither to determine how iustly his Predecessors got it, but how lineally it is deuolued from thē to him. The meanes how this house rose to such superioritie in a cōmon-wealth, where was alwaies maintained such equallitie, is by the *Florence* historic easily discerned to be their popularity & insinuatue stealing into the peoples good opinions; ouer whō they oftentimes in cases of insolencies & oppres-  
sions by the nobler sort, vndertooke the Patronage, & became as it were the *Tribunes* of the people in *Rome*, or the *Auogadori del Commune* in *Venice*, who (as I take it) are *Aduocates & Intercessors* for the citizēs, preferring their sutes to the Courts. Howbeit there is a difference, for this is an office instituted, that was a fauor enchroched vpō, this is by law limitted, that was by mās nature so infinite, as it staid not running on this plausible race till the wished goale was gotten. *Venice* hath bcene wisc in this case, where it hath beene danger for a great man to deserue too well, and be loued too much; for which cause only (as in their *Annals* appeareth) some of thē haue lost their liues, fearing what this popularitie of theirs might effect, if it were put to the triall: & holding belike that principle good in a cōmonwealth, which is a ground in matters of the Church, which saith; *Melius est perire unū quā unionē*) It is better one perish then vnitie: factions being as dāgerous in the one, as schismes in the other. To which purpose *Athens* and *Rome* can afford many fit examples, & indeed so many, as it were needless to recount, either that of *Scilla* and *Marius*, *Cesar* and *Pompeius*, *Oclanius* and *Anthonius*: or any other particulars, either of the one state or the other. And but that the (colours Noble and Popular) were in seuentie sixe in good time vnited in the Citty of *Genoa*; there had not wanted at this day an example in that Citty also, eyther of the family, *Doria*, *Spinoli*, *Grimaldi*, or *Fieschi*, as by *Oberto Foglietta*, a very judicall writer of these times is proued.

But to returne to the history of the family *Medici*, it is to be vnderstood, that *Lorenzo* grand-child to the first *Cosmo*, who for his well deseruing of the Common-wealth was sir-named *Pater Patriæ*, & vncle to *Clement* the 7. who for deserts cleane contrary merited the title of *Ruina Reipub:* He I say, after the death of his brother *Guigliano*, who was slaine by the families *Saluiati* and *Pazzi*, gouerned the State of *Florence* with all wisedome, grauitie and moderation, without respect of any particular aduancement of his house, but onely of the weale publick. To him had all the States and Princes of *Italy* recourse in all their matters of controuersie to be ended, and of counsell to be guided: insomuch, as in his dayes, *Florence* seemed another *Delphos*, and he another Oracle: as he would, were all officers chosen, all families preferred, and all common actions of the State carried. So that as in *Genoa* the *Adorni* and *Fregosi* were by the people exalted, to curbe the vnbridled insolencies of the *Coloni Nobile*: as in *Siena* the *Petrucci* were made great to restraine the disordered humours of some aspiring Citizens: as in *Perugia* the *Bastioni* were aduanced to impeach the proud desaignes of the *Ruspanti*, of whose proceedings the Citty grew iealous; and as in *Bologna* the *Bentivogli* were preferred to extraordinarie honours & authoritie, through the hate they bore their Nobles: So likewise the first raising of this familie *Medici*, was their plausible carriage towards the meaner and baser rancke of Citizens, by whom they were chosen for a head against the greater and more powerfull sort. And not contented with this preliemenencie, their desires rested not: vntill (as in the person of *Alexander* shall appeare) one of their house came to be Duke of so great a State, brother to a King of *France*, and sonne in law to an Emperour. So ordinary and naturall a thing it is in the minde of man, in matter of ambition and greatnessse, to keepe no mediocrity; that when yee giue him the authority and commaund ouer few, and in small matters, he cannot liue his vast thoughts within the limits prescribed, but is so carried beyond himselfe with a desire to rule, as without consideration either of vertue by which, or of friends by whom, he was aduanced;

uanced; he is violently driuen with the streme of that his ambitious passion, to oppresse aswell those by whose meanes, as those for whose cause he was at first aduanced. Which ambitious humour of raigning (though it raigned not in this good *Lorenzo*, who with the reputation of a great wise man, and no lesse good Citizen dyed in the yeare 1492. with whom saith *Guicciardine* dyed the glory and peace of *Italy*: ) yet it made the way to those garboiles and troubles which his childrens greatness (by his desert) and aspiring minds (by their owne corruption) did afterwards cause in *Florence*. For leauing behind him three sonnes, *Piero*, *Giouanni*, and *Guigliano*; the first succeeded his father, but not with like moderation in that authoritie wherin his fathers vertues left him in: but asserting a lordly superiority and sole gouernment; and as my Author saith; *Con consiglio dirittamente contrario à consigli paterni nè comunicato cò cittadini principali*, with a counsell quite contrary to that of his father, and kept still secret from the chiefe Cittizens; he sought to carry all matters after the vnbridled sway of his owne affections, so greatly to the dislike of the Cittizens, and to the prejudice of their liberty; as he with his brothers were worthily banished; who after many attempts to be reimpartiate, yet still repulsed, were notwithstanding at the last by the meanes of *Ferdinando King of Aragon and Naples* restored (I meane the two younger brothers, for *Piero* was now dead) *ri-*  
*pigliando quell' antica grandezza de Medici mà gounierandola pui*  
*imperiosamente, è con arbitrio pui assoluto di quello che si soleua: ta-*  
*king vpon thē againe the former greatness of the Medici, & car-*  
*rying it more lordly, and with a more peremptory swinge then*  
*they were wont*, *Guicciard.lib. ii. car. 318.* This restoring of  
the Medici, & subiection of the Cittie, was in the yeare 1512.  
after they had beene eighteene yeares banished, in which lordly course of carrying theselues, they continued fifteenyeares,  
till 1527. when *Clement* the Pope being in dangerat *Rome*, &  
fled into the Castle *S. Angelo*, the Florentines taking aduantage  
of the time, attempted the recouering of their liberty; Howbeit  
at the Popes instance, the Emperour *Charles* the fist made

*Alexander Medices* Prior perpetuall, And after in 35. (as hath  
beene before said, speaking of his Stile) hauing matched in the  
house of *Austria*, he created him duke, causing an emblematical  
statue to be made of Brasse in the chiefe *Piazza* of the towne,  
with this inscription in the name of the Emperour, *Te fili si quis  
Leserat, vltor ero.* My Sonne I will reuenge thee, if any dare to  
hurt thee, as a threat to the City if they offered to recouer their  
liberty. This *Alexander* fyrst Duke of *Florence*, being murdered  
by his cosen *Lorenzo*, and hauing no issue, the gouernment fell to  
*Cosmo* son to *Giovanni de Medici & Maria Salviati*, heire in the  
next line, & Father to this great duke that now liueth, to whom  
by the death of his elder brother *Frācesco*, this state is deuolued.

## His Court.

Concerning his Court, it is the generall opinion, that it is  
greater then of a Duke, lesse then of a King; which compared  
with other Dukes of *Italy* is true: howbeit if it be considered  
either what number of persons are therein, or what prouision  
there is made, I thinke it may hardly compare with the houses  
of the Nobility of *England*, comprehending in this nūber none  
but such as liue and haue their dyet in Court, whereof there be  
very few. For this Court doth yeeld two sorts of courtiers: *della  
bocca, & della Casa*, (of the mouth and of the house) that is, of  
such as feede there, and of such as retaine onely. Of the first sort  
is the great Duke himselfe, the Duke *Bracciano*, their Dutches-  
ses, their children, and some few seruants besides to the number  
as I haue credibly heard not aboue foure and twenty: of the  
other sort are other officers of Court, which notwithstanding  
liue at their owne priuate tables, as *Monsignior Puteo* Archbi-  
shop of *Pisa*, and thereto his Highnesse, by whose counsell he is  
especially aduised, *Il Signior Piero Vsimbaldi*, *il signior Canalliere  
Concino*, *il Signior Beliario Vinta*, *il Signior Caualliere Serguidi*,  
*il signior Piero Conti* his Secretaries, & diuers others his officers.  
To these if we adde *Don Giovanni & Don Antonio*, both *Me-  
dici*, the one his brother, the other his Nephue illigitimate, *Il sig-  
nior Camillo del Monte*, generall of the foot, *Il signior Conte Ghe-  
rardesca Collonell* of the horse, *Il signior Francesco Montauti*,  
generall of his gallies, besides the *Luarant' Otto*, & diuers others  
Countes and Nobles of *Florence*, you shall see a very honoura-  
ble

ble and noble presence.

The order of this discourse requireth that in this place I briet- His order  
ly aduertise of the order of *San Stephano*, whereof his highnesse of S. Ste-  
is grand master, which was first instituted by *Cosmo* his father, phen.  
and confirmed by *Pius Quintus*. But because the ordinances &  
statutes therof be very many, as well concerning the inuestiture  
as degradation, & for that there is a booke written thereof inti-  
tled *della Religione di San Stephano*: I will only remember that  
the *Gran Maestro* conferreth diuers other offices belonging to  
this order, and of chiefe accoumpt, vpon persons of principall  
qualitie in his state: as the office of *Gran Comandator*, *Gran Con-*  
*testabile*, and *Gran Priore*. There be three degrees of this order;  
the first is of *Cauallieri querrieri*, the second are *Ecclesiastichi*;  
the last *Servienti*. Of the first sort haue beene made ( as in their  
Pallace at *Pisa* appeareth) about one thousand and twenty. The  
second are Priests & persons of the church, not so honourable  
as the former. The last are such as haue baser offices either a-  
bout the Pallace, or about their lands, and receiue annuall wa-  
ges for their paines. The *Cognisance* or badge of this order, is a  
crosse, in forme like that of the knights of *Malta*, but differing  
in colour, for that of *Malta* is white, this is red. They are bound  
to weare it alwayes vpon their vpper garment, which the great  
duke himselfe also obserueth. They are bound also to serue at  
Sea in the *Grand Maisters* warres for six yeares ( as I take it ) if  
need be, whereas they of *Malta* are bound to serue agaist the  
Turke all the dayes of their life. The Knights of this order may  
marry, and hold temporall possessions, which they of *Malta*  
may not. This order is lineally to descend from the father to the  
eldest sonne, without any more creation, like the Titles of ho-  
nours in *England*, vntesse his father vpon demerit be formerly  
degraded. What other priuiledges they haue, in the booke ther-  
of writte appeareth, & what vse the *Grand-master* hath of their  
seruice in all his occasions, is as easily coniectured.

It followeth to speake somwhat of his riches : a matter wher- Riches.  
of one may discourse by probabilities, but can determine no-  
thing of certaine : for if they which marry our rich widdowes

in England be many times deceiued in the reckoning, finding the accoumpt fall farre short of that the world iudged, & they themselues hoped: how easie a thing is it to erre in the valuing of so great a Prince as the great duke of *Tuscany*? Besides if one should vndertake to write of euery thing he hath seene, & giue it the *Italians* valuation ( who in matters of their owne, euer speake *alla larga* ) I assure my selfe he should be very much deceiued, and gaine the imputation of a notable Gull for his credulity, & a notorious Bugiarde for his deliury, against which, note his farre trauaile neither giues him warrant nor *superseedas*. I was in a *Florentines* gallery, who hath sometimes beene in our Countrey, where besides one table of Tutch, and three other of Serpentine, Agate, and such like, very curiously wrought and bordered with flowers of their naturall colours ( which might be painted for ought I knew ): howbeit he protested they were all the naturall colours of the stone, and of the infinite charge it cost to cut so many, before they could finde such as should giue the true lustre of the flower, which surely is there done most liuely: and besides many Statues of Marble, Alabaster & Brasse, he shewed vs a Cupbord of Boxes yet vnfinsihed (which he said) hath already cost foure and twenty thousand crownes: we see also diuers Medalles, at the least fiue hundred, which he valued some at twenty and thirty crownes the peece: for the value of his Cupbord I know not, but for his Medalles I am sure, that in *Venice* a man may buy as good and as Antique of a *Montibanc* for two gazets a peece, which is not two pence sterl. Now if one had swallowed this Gudgion of one hundred and twentie thousand Crownes (for so much he said these toyes in this Gallery did cost) he must needs either haue surfeited of a fulnesse, or else haue discouered his infirmitie by venting it to others.

But to returne to the great Dukes riches; in the Gallery at *Florence* where is his *Guarda-roba*, his Wardrobe, and Armory, there is very much and massie Plate, with one Cupbord of pure gold, the value I cannot estimate. There is also one Table in making for the Emperour, which hath already cost (they say)

twenty

twenty two thousand duckets set with very many & very faire Stones. There is one Deske worth ( as they dare affirme ) one Million. There are likewise *Rapiers* with hilts of gould, and in their Pomels either the Spheres or Clockes very curiously wrought. There be swords so artificially made , that they may be throwne out the length of three, and being at the full length, it dischargeth a Pistoll : there is the Sword of *Charlemaigne* greatly prized. There be Targets which with a Pinne turned make Daggers flie out of all sides . There are besides the diuers weapons of most Nations, with many other things for the richnesse and rarenesse worth the remembring , as also the great Dukes chaine of Diamonds, and the great Duchesses chaine of Pearle which they weare dayly, two iewels no doubt of exceeding value : besides all other their iewels & treasures not seene. But the thing which most argueth his Riches , and whereof he and other Princes haue their daily vses , and whereby they be valued, is ready Money and Coine ; which the world ( and no doubt vpon good reason ) iudgeth to be very great : insomuch as the *Neopolitan* calleth him the King of coine: for in their play at *Primero*(their foure suites of cardes being *denari, Coppe, Spade, Picche, Coyne, Cuppes, Swords, Pikes*) when(as the manner is) yee aske him for what Carde he pulleth , if he pull for a *Denaro* he answereth; I pull for the great Duke of *Tuscany* . And truely I am of opinion ( submitting my selfe to better iudgments ) that as in *France* there be foure great Riuers farre excelling the rest of that countrey in generall , and yet one another in some one particular : *Loyre* the greatest, *Rhone* the swiftest , *Sayne* the richest , and *Sone* the sweetest . So in *Italy* there are foure great States, aboue all the other without exception , which notwithstanding in some one particular compared together, exceed one another. The Pepe greatest in authoritie, the kingdome of *Naples* greatest in land-forces ; the *Venetians* mightiest at Sea ; and this great Duke mightiest in purse. Of whose present money some let not to say that he hath thirty millions of Duckets, others talke of fife and twenty , none vnder twenty ; but how truely , must be left to euery mans pleasure to iudge , as a thing vtterly vnkownne , except we may guide our conjectures by

this inference, which may thus be collected.

Duke *Francesco* in the yeare 1576. reported to the *Venetian* Embassador, that his father *Cosmo* dying, left him in debt eight hundred thousand Duckets: for the payment whereof he was forced to take vp great summes of the *Genoese*, at vnreasonable interest. Notwithstanding it appeareth by the relation of the said Embassador, that within ten yeares after he was cleared of that debt, and had imbursed to his coffers fiue Millions. It may then be probably argued, that if in ten yeares there were six millions encrease, in twenty years more, there be at least twelue more added. But if it be obiected that Duke *Francesco* in the terine of those ten yeares had many hundred thousand duckets confiscate to his coffers by the treason of *Pucci*, who with his complices had plotted to enuite the Duke, the Cardinall, and *Don Piero* to a feast, and there to murder them all, and so to recover their liberty; It may hereto be answered that he was likewise a Prince of very great expences, and that for instance in that very time, he built the Pallace and water-workes of *Pratolino*, which cost him at the least three hundred thousand duckets. As for this great Duke now liuing, his expences are small for so great a Prince, as by the small number of them which liue in Court may appeare. And yet euery *Carneuale* time he retireth himselfe from *Florence*, where is much to be spent, to *Pisa* where is somewhat to be gained: he saith he doth it for the affection he beareth that towne; his people say, for the loue he hath to spare; our English Marchants there say, it is for loue of their commodities, which about that time arriue, and are brought vp by his officers.

It is likewise knowne he hath great summes of money in banck, which must needs bring in their yearly gaine, besides three-score thousand duckets entrate, which he yearly detaineth from his brother *Don Piero*, who liueth in *Spaine*, & the gaine of Wheate before remeinbred; all which with his yearly reuenue may make one strongly perswaded, that his ready money is little lesse then that which is iudged of them. which rate it at the highest. I should surely thinke it an incredible masse, but that I haue read for certaine, that in the yeare 1592. the ready money

of Amerath, father to Mahomet the third, the great Turke now living, was at the least fifty millions. And although the disproportion of their Entrates may seeme much to weaken the force of this comparison : yet I see not, considering on the other side as great difference in their expenses, but that it may carry some good shew of likelyhood. To conclude this point, it appeareth, that the great Duke hath two Reuenues whereby he groweth rich ; that is, great impositions, and great sparing (for sparing is a great reuenuē.) There yet remaineth two other meanes to make him absolutely rich, the loue of his subiects, and their priuate wealth ( for the wealth of the Subiect is the wealth of the king, and where the people is rich, the Prince is not poore. But sure it is that he hath neither the one, nor they the other.

It is to be thought that he which hath money such store wanteth no forces ( for money is called the sinews of warre) I will therefore to this short discourse of his Riches, adde in a word what is thought of his forces. His strength at Sea is not great, for he hath not aboue six Galleys, neither hath had since the ouerthrowe that the Turkes gaue him at the little Ilands *Formiche*, where he lost two of his best Galleys and one Galleon. In these that remaine he hath besides Munition ordinary, (that is eight or ten a peece,) about two hundred Souldiers and eight hundred slaues. He hath also much good Munition, and a coipetent number of Souldiers in his Fortes of the *Porto Fer-  
rario*, in the Illand of *Elba*: of which place his Fathier was im-  
patronized by the Lord thereof, the *Signor di Piombino*, with  
the consent of *Charles* the fist: both because the Patron therof  
was not able to defend it against the *Corsari*, which daily rob-  
bed and spoyled it: as also, because for the small defence it  
had, it might haue fallen into the hands of the Turkes, and  
so by reason of the Scite (standing very fitly for such a purpose)  
it might haue prejudiced the whole country of *Italy*. Notwith-  
standing all the reuenuē of the Isle is left free to the Lord of *Pi-  
ombino*, & vnder his command are all other the towns & vnfor-  
tified places. In this Port which is capable of what fleet soever,  
do all ships that trade from the *Levāi* westward & contrariwise

touch, as in a place as necessary, fit, and secure, as are the *Terres* to the *Spaniards* sailing to the West-Indies : so that if he with this Isle had also a good number of Galleis, and a purpose to offend, he might very easily infest all the Seas vpon the coast of *Barbary*, vpon *Promence*, *Lyguria*, *Tuscania*, and all that side of *Italie*, and in a manner make himselfe Lord of those Mid-land Seas. He hath also (as is reported) one hundred Soldiers, & good Artillerie in a Fort he holdeth at *Marseilles* called *Castle dite*; by the sufferance of which peece the *Genoeses* ship was in *January* last taken, (wherof the parties grieued complained lately to the great Duke) where besides foure hundred *Spaniards* put to the Gallies, was also found foure hundred thousand crownes, sent thether from *Spaine*. He hath also in those thirty Castles and Fortes before spoken of (wherein are garrisons but very small, as in some fiftie, and in others fife and twentie, in others not aboue fifteene & in some fewer by reason of the good tearmes he standeth in with his neighbours Princes, or at least by the good fauour of the time, for that they be otherwise diuerted, that would be busie, to the number of six hundred in all). He hath likewise in all his sixteene Citties, garrisons of Souldiers more or lesse, as in the Cyttadell *S. Miniato*, and the new Fortresse at *Florence* one hundred & twenty, in *Pisa* fiftie, in *Siena* twentie fife, in *Liuorno* two hundred and twenty, &c. In all which places he is said to be very well prouided of Munition, Armour, weapons, Powder, shott, and such like military prouision ; the certaine quantity wheroft I cannot certainly enforme, because, but vpon especiall fauour, and by commandement, they dare not let one come into their Fortes. And to write what others say, were to erre himselfe and seduce others. I was by good meanes in the Castle at *Liuorno*, where I told off field peeces three-score and foure, whereof (they told me) that twelue were canon, and demi-canon ; by which proportion it is to be conjectured that he is very well furnished.

These Souldiers of whom is already spoken, are all in pay ; he hath also a *Rassegna*, his trained Souldier (as we in *England* call them) about the number whereof there is great difference, between that which is writtē by way of relation, & that which is

is by way of conference reported. Relations (thē which nothing  
is more false) write that there be thirty six thousand: but I talk-  
ed with a Captaine, who hath the mustering & charge of three  
hundred within the precincts of *Prato* ( then whom no man  
should know better) and he tolde me but of fifteene thousand.  
In this diuersitie of report I haue no other guide to direct me,  
to whether of these I should giue credit, then by a rateable pro-  
portion of the part with the whole, to inferre whether of these  
two commeth nearer to the trueth, in this manner . It is now  
certainly holden , that the number of people in the States of  
*Florence* and *Siena* vnited together , are about eight hundred  
thousand, and that they which recken six in the one & fiue in  
the other, and so make one million and one hundred thousand,  
do somewhat overshoot the true number,much more they that  
recken 800000. in the state of *Florence*, and 600000. in that of  
*Siena* , not considering that the people of *Siena* and *Pisa* with  
their precincts are much decayed, as hath already beeene partly  
said. Now then if sixteene thousand people (the number of thē  
within the *distretto* ( the precincts) of *Prato*) do allow the great  
Duke a *Rassegna* of three hundred , which I haue seene foure  
times trained (for they muster and are exercised once a month  
throughout his state ) then eight hundred thousand will allow  
fifteene thousand after that rate. But if it be answered that vpon  
the frontiers of the church and in the *Maremma*,there is a grea-  
ter *Rassegna* then in other places , and so the proportion not to  
hold,I reply,to answer this with sufficient recompence,there is  
no mustering of Souldiers nor any *Rassegna* in the cittie of *Flo-  
rence*,which is a good part of the whole . So that of this I am  
sure,that in *Florence*,*Prato*,*Pistoia*,*Pisa*,& their territories,there  
are not in all aboue two thousand two hundred: I should ther-  
fore thinke it strange and very disproportionate , that there  
should be aboue twenty thousand in all . It may be demanded  
why they of *Florence* are not trained aswell as the rest ; the rea-  
son is; *manet alta mente reposat tyrannis Papa, & consensus Impera-  
toris*, Pope *Clement*s usurping , and Charles the fifts consent,  
sticks still in their stomacks . For they haue not yet forgot that  
their fathers were free & commanders ouer others; & therfore

they are not onely preuented of this meane which peraduen-  
ture at sometime or other they might take, but they be also de-  
barred the hauing of any Armes in their houses, or of wearing  
any weapon by their sides, except he be a knaige of the order,  
or a trained Souldier, or an officer, or one that hath especiall li-  
cence for the same, whereof there be many Gentlemen in *Flo-  
rence*, according to the fauour they haue with the Prince, and  
as he is secured of them. The like is through the whole state,in-  
somuch as many will sue to be trained Souldiers(a thing which  
with vs they would gladly auoide) because they might be pri-  
uiledged to weare weapon, but especially(which is also a free-  
dome granted to men of this profession) because they might  
not be arrested for debt.

His forces at Sea and land are these already remembred,bes-  
side one hundred Launces which he keepeth in *Siena*, & some  
fiftie light horse in his owne stables at *Florence*, besides foure  
hundred more in other places of his state.

**His entrate** His *Entrate*, is by diuerse men diuersly estimated, some say  
one Million and a halfe, others one Million and a hundred  
thousand, and some there be that say it is as much as both these  
summes. Howsoeuer it may be thought that the least of these is  
a great matter for so small a State, whether we call it small in  
regarde of the circuite, the number of the People; or lastly the  
barrennesse of the soile, out of which the Subiects wealth and  
Princes Taxes should be raised. This may well be proued by  
comparing this state with that of the Duke of *Ferrara*, which  
is not much lesse in continent then this of the great Duke, and  
the soile generally much more fruitful, yet is the reuenue of this  
great Duke almost thrice as much as that other. An apparent  
argument of the ouer-charging of his people by Taxations &  
impositions more then their neighbours: yet are the subiects  
of the state of *Venice* lesse charged then these, & they vnder the  
Duke of *Parma* least of all; onely they of the kingdome of *Na-  
ples* haue as much cause to complaine as the *Tuscanes*, or any  
other subiects in *Italy* whatsoeuer. As for the trueth of those  
three opinions, which of them hath best interest therein I dare  
not determine; I will onely adde to these generallities such  
parti-

particulars as are commonly knowne, & of all confessed, with some other specialties which are of most men either purposely (because vncertaine) omitted, or else negligently related.

The opinion of them that rate his Reuenue at 1100. thousand Duckets, is directed by this particular:

He hath say they, out of the *Gabell* or Toll of the

Gates of Florence	100.
Dogana or Custome-house at Florence	100.
Gabel vpon Salt through that State	120.
Vpon Corne through that State	120.
Vpon flesh through that State	80.
Vpon Dowers and Bargaines	70.
Vpon condemnations and Suites in law	65.
Pisa and Liuorno yeeld yearly	70.
Pistoia yeeldeth yearly	60.
Arezzo yearly	20.
Volterra yearly yeeldeth	15.
Cortona yeeldeth	20.
Monte Pulciano yeeldeth yearly	10.
Fiesole a desolate Cittie yeeldeth	2.
Colle a Citty of ffeue yeares old yeeldeth	3.
The Cittie and State of Siena	240.

thousand  
Duckets.

All which together make the summe of 1095000.  
which within ffeue thousand Duckets agreeth with the said sum.

This accompt shall appeare not to swarue much, if we examine each particular. First for the Toll of the gates of *Florence* and custome out of the *Dogana*, it is apparently knowne that the great Duke lets it out at two hundred thousand Duckets the yeare at the least, reckoning withall of all other impositions one fourth part of that whole State, which is probably supposed to be gathered hereout. There is paid also throughout the whole state, eight in the hundred for marriages, as if the womās portion be a thousand duckets, the Prince hath thereout eighty. The like proportion is paid for buying & selling of houses or land. But the letting of houses or land payeth the tenth: for Cattell bought and sold, he hath also a *guiglio*, that is six-pence Sterling in euery two Duckets, and though the Beasts be bought

Burdello.

bought and sold twice in one houre, he hath still after the same rate. Furthermore, besides his impositions vpon the Bancks, he hath at euery alienation eight in the hundred ; that is, when the father or possessor dieth, the sonne or next heires payeth after this rate for his patrimony left him. He hath also an entrate out of the *Burdello* stewes, which is thought at the least thirty thousand crownes a yeare in *Florence* onely. there being some eight thousand Curtizans in the towne, these pay euery moneth a liuer nine-pence sterlinc to the great Duke, because heere the market is somewhat quick, though in *Siena* they pay but a *guiglio* monthly , they pay also a *Liuer* a moneth not to weare the yellow list the badge of their trade, if they stand out of the *Burdello*, if they be priuiledged to go to any mans lodging , or if they weare mans apparell , for each of these priuileges they pay *Gabell* also . The Iewes here also from fifteene yeares vpward, pay two Duckets the yeare.

Bread.

Concerning the *Gabell* vpon bread, true it is, that he hath vpon euery Stay that is ground two *Crazie*, three halfe-pence of ours, so that by this rate he hath of euery quarter of our measure, the summe of eighteene-pence of our money. If then it be supposed that euery one in the state of *Florence* eate twelue *Staia* a yeare, which is as before a proportion ordinary , the summe will not much differ from the rate of one hundred and twenty thousand Duckets.

Flesh.

Concerning the flesh , it is to be vnderstood , that the great duke hath for euery pound that is eaten fiue *denari*, wherof 20. make a *Crazia*, so that he hath of euery Stone that is eaten of our weight, the value of three-pence of our money.

He hath vpon euery pound of Salt spent, ten *quattrini* gaine, that is three halfe-pence of our money : so that after the rate of foure and twenty *Moggia* the day, for three hundred dayes in a yeare, allowing the other sixtie fiue for holly-dayes, he gaines two hundred and sixteen thousand, seauen hundred sixtie one Duckets , whereof allowing almost one halfe for the state of *Siena*, because there he hath no imposition vpon Salt, the sum will accord very neerely with the particular abouesaid.

As

As for the *Dogana* of *Lyuorno*, being the Gate as it were through which all marchandise passe into those parts of *Italy*: and for *Siena*, being the roade from *Venice* and *Florence* to *Rome*, it is to be credibly supposed, that both the one and the other yeeld no lesse benefit to the Prince then is aboue rated; the like is to be thought of the other Citties.

But ouer and besides all this, it is to be considered, that in the *Gabel* by whole state of *Siena* he hath a *Gabel* by the Pole as we call it *Pole*. in *England*, that is vpon euery head a certaine rate, ( I thinke eightene-pence) besides an allowance for feeding of their cat-tell, whereot in this State is reasonable good store, much more then in that of *Florence*, whose wants it supplyeth, especially of Swine, by reason of their great store of Mast, for which they pay halfe a ducket the Swine, whereas in times past they paide but one *guiglio*: they pay also for the killing eightene-pence, and other such like impositions. Insomuch as talking with two Gentlemen of *Siena* concerning these matters, men of good qualitie and experience, they auowed that the great Duke had as good as a Ducket vpon euery mastred Swine before he come to the owners table. They farther alleaged, that howsoeuer they were exempt from the *Gabell* of the *Macina* as they call it, that is of paying for their Meale, Salt, and Flesh, yet notwithstanding all things considered, their burthen was no whit ligh-  
ter then their neighbours of the other State, that paid all these. To which purpose they protested, that of their *Villa* which they let to halfe to the *Contadini* (the labourer) there fell not in the reckoning, (all taxes, tallages, and impositions defalked) aboue one third to themselves, another to the *Fermar*, and the rest to the Prince. A strange proportion we may thinke, that liue in such blessed happiness, and farre beyond all Taxes, Subsidies, and Priuy-seales whatsoeuer. But what compare I the heauy *Dinasty* of small *Tuscany*, with the flourishing Mo-  
narchy, and happy gouernment of great *Brittany*.

He hath also no small matter of the *Camere Locande* lodg-  
ings for strangers, and the Innes in the State; of some fortie, of  
others fiftie, & of soime foure-score Duckets, euery third yea-re: keepers.

he hath also in some places his Bake-houses , where the Inne-keepers are enioyned to take their bread of him. Though this exaction be so great vpon the Innes at *Florence*, and in the road way to *Rome*, notwithstanding in *Pisa* the yoake is not so heauy, there the manner of raising the *Gabell* is thus . At euery three yeares end, all the Inne-keepers in the Cittie are to appeare at a Court in the *Dogana* kept for that purpose. There it is cryed by the Officer , that such, and such an Inne , paide these last three yeares so many Duckets to the Prince , who biddeth more ? There is a Candle set vp light , and while that lasteth, it is lawfull to lone and bid for the same, and he that biddeth most shall haue it. Wherein this one thing may seeme more strange , then that which hath beene already enformed concerning a mans Corne, that in some cases he cannot make his prouision of his owne ; for here if another will giue more for the Inne then I, though the house be mine owne , he shall haue it, paying me onely my rent , and I shall be forced to seeke another . I haue onely this priuiledge aboue another, that I offering as much as he, I shalbe first serued. The Inne-keeper of *Pisa* where lye our English Marchants, auowed this to be most true ; he paieth for these three yeares forty Duckets . His Highnesse hath also vpō

**Matricula.** all things sold in shops, a *Matricula* (as they call it) which is not to be paied euery yeaer, but onely once, when the shop-keeper setteth vp ; which in some shōps commeth at least to an hundred duckets. One that selleth stockings, trusses, shirts, sockes & such trash , told me that at his first beginning he paid his *Matricula* for Wollen cloath twenty *Florens* ; for Linnen cloath as much, and for Buttons Silke and Threed as much, which in all commeth to thirty gold crownes. To conclude this point, there is not that trade , nor that man or woman whatsoeuer, but of them this Prince hath his Tribute , more or lesse, not so much but the poore seely widow , which the whole yeare Spinneth, payeth seauenteene Solls , that is about eight-pence Sterling.

**Lazaretto.** I haue not heard of any that are free but the *Lazaretton* or *Hospidall*, & the begger that goeth from doore to doore only; for

for (which hath partly beeene said) there is not that poore Asses burthen of dung that goeth out the gates, nor that Radish roote that commeth in, that paith not his *Gabell*; except they haue the cunning to deceiue them that keepe the gates, men whose eyes will pearce what *Valigia* or basket soever: and if it chance they be detected, they loose the thing hidden without redemp-  
tion. I saw a poore *Contadina* Countrey-woman, who com-  
ming to the gate to pay her tolle for a Basket of Lettice she  
brought in: one of the foxes, who I thinke could smell a goose,  
for he could not possible see any, searched vnder the hearbes,  
and finding one dead without feathers, sent the poore woman  
away halfe dead for sorrow, without her goose. And they told  
me, that if a Gentleman of *Siena* should come out at *Florence*  
gates; with a chaine of gold new bought about his neck, how-  
beit worn betweene his doublet and Jerkin that it might not  
be seene to saue the *gabell*, that being discouered he should not  
loose his Chaine onely, but his horse also.

Concerning all the taxes and impositions, certaine it is, that *Impositions*  
they which rate the great Dukes *Entrate* at cleauen hundred *and Taxes*  
thousand Duckets, comprehend onely such as are ordinary & *ordinary*.  
certaine but of the rest which stand on casualty, and are *vncer-*  
*taine* they cannot determine. And sure I am of this, that besides  
many particulers heere remembred, as also the Rents and Re-  
uenues of his proper lands belonging by many descents to  
him, of others not accounted in this valuation of his yearly  
*Entrate*, there is yet one thing behinde vntouched or thought  
of by others, which will appeare no small matter, and is this.

In euery Citty and towne corporate (as I may say) in *Tuscanie* *Cōmunita*  
there was before their subiection to the family *Medici* a *Cōmu-*  
*nità* that is, an *Entrate* in cōmon of the Citty, by which all pub-  
lick charges were defrayed, all officers maintained, and many  
other good and charitable workes performed. This *Entrate*  
arose vpon the Tenthis & Tithes of euery mans crop or fruite:  
(for in *Tuscany* the parish Priest hath them not, he hath onely  
his offering & Church-rights, with a house and some certaine  
ground thereto belonging, as yee would say Glebe-land.)

Ceppo.

Catchpols.

It grew also vpon the bread and flesh, thus; euery file of bread as they terme it, cost a *quattrino* the signing, euery Bullock cost foure *Liners* the killing, euery Swine two, euery Weather cost two *guigly*. There were also in times past people of charitable disposition, who dying without children made the *Communità* their heire to their goods and land, which they call the *Entrate* of the *Ceppo*, that is, the Stock, and is a member of the *Communità*. Now that which did yearely remaine of the *Entrate*, all charges deducted, was put to the common Treasurie for to helpe in time of dearth or warre, or such like publick necessity. An example hereof I will take the towne of *Prato*. Here the *Entrate* of the *Communità* is twenty six thousand Duckets the yeare, the *Entrate* of the *Ceppo* is eight thousand, in all thirty foure; hereout they allow the *Pedesta* one thousand, the Captaigne of the trained Souldiers, six hundred, the Chauncellor fiue hundred, they allow for a feast euery two moneths among the eight *Pricori* at the choosing of their *Gonfaloniere* twenty duckets. They allow their Judge, who is a Doctor of the Ciuitall law, fiue hundred, also the wages of the *Bargello* and *Sbirri* (as one would say the Vnder-shiriffe and his Sergeants) the wages of the Trumpetters, the stipend of foure Schoole-masters, the salarye of two Phisitions and two Chirurgions, the keeping of ten Schollers at the Vniuersitie in *Pisa*, also the maintaining of two Hospitals, one of Bastards th' other of sick, aged, and impotent persons, wherof there are in all to the number of three hundred and fiftie: besides the giuing of portions to poore maides that are married from hence, or to young boyes that are put to some occupation, as also the Almes euery Friday of fourteene *Staia* of Corne, two barrels of Wine, and one of Vineger giuen to the poorer sort. And lastly that which they giue to the *Poneiri Vergognosi*, that is, such housholders as are poore and are ashamed to beg, whereof there is consideration had by the foure that are in office for that purpose: These and all other their common charges, as trimming of Churches, repairing of Bridges, mending of high wayes, and such like, being defrayed, it is certaine, that there yearly remaineth one fourth part at the least:

which now goeth not to the common treasure, as in times past, but to the great dukes coffers : the like is to be said of all other places in this Dukedom.

But it is to be obserued, that before this money which resulteth of the *Communità* be carryed to *Florence* to the dukes Exchequer, it is put into the *Monte di Pieta* the Bancke of Pitty : a place where any poore man may pawne his houshold stuffe, or cloathes , or whatsoeuer els is worth money ( prouided alwayes the gage be worth more then the money) he taketh this money he hath for a day and a yeare after fiue in the hundred. And if at the time he returne not to redeeme the thing engaged, it is sold by Trumpet, for what can be gotten where-out the principall and interest being taken, the poore man shall haue the rest . So that the great Duke hauing this ouerplus, for now it is their Prouerbe, *Il Duca è la Communità* in euery City and great towne, and the vse besides for the money, which will amount to a round summe through the whole State ( for there be of these Banckes in euery place ) it is to be coniectured, that his whole *Entrate* is a greater matter then it is ordinarily taken for, of them who esteeme it at one Million and one hundred thousand Duckets , I should rather condiscend to them , that rate it at one Million and a halfe.

Concerning his expences it is harder to guesse at, then his *Entrate*. those of the Duke *Francesco* were supposed about fiue hundred thousand Duckets ; these of this Duke they say be much lesser. And as the Duke his brother had diuers Captaines and men of commaund his Stipendaries , who receiued of him some three thousand five hūdred duckets the yeare, some three thousand, some two, and some lesse, according to their nobility, and the qualitie of the place, wherein they had charge, so is it to be thought, that the Generall of the foote, the Collonell of his horse, the generall of his Galleis, and other inferiour Cominanders, who vpon occasion are bound to serue him in their places, are with sufficient pension rewarded, each particulers pension, how much it is, without more certaine information then I had, I dare not presume to say : choosing rather to be defectiue

Monte di  
Pieta.

His expen-  
ces.

in a generallity, then being too particular to erre.

**His expēce  
on horſe.** As for his expence vpon his troope of horſe, the Lance hath 7. *Piaſtras* (1. fiue ſhillings 3. pence a ppeece) a moneth, the light-horſeman hath three now in the tyme of peace, in warres a better proportion. The Souldier in all his garrifons hath foure *Piaſtras* a moneth, the officers proportionate, each in his place to this rate. As for the trained Souldier, he is (in peace) no charge to the Duke for he findeth himſelfe ſhot, powder, armour, weapon, and all things neceſſary, and is bound to keepe them in good order; the Captaines and officers of these are paid out of the *Communità* as hath beene abouesaid. The charge of his Galley's allowing (as *Don Antonio Doria* in his diſcourse how to reſiſt the Turke at Sea doth proportion, that is,) each moneth fiue hundred gold crownes a Galley, cometh in the halfe yeare which time they be commonly at Sea, to the ſum of eightene thouſand gold crownes. The charge of his Court, as by the number of persons therein aboue enformed, may be collected, cannot be great. I haue heard one of his ſeruants ſay, that the Steward is allowed for *Spezierie*, *Spicerie*, fifteen thouſand duckets, & that all other charges may treble ſo much more. As for all officers of Court, but theſe few before remembred, they feede at their owne tables; His Pages (which are Gentlemens ſonnes of the Citty, or other places) in number as I take it fifteen, are at his charges kept at Schoole & at dyet in the Citty: His *Staffieri* or Footemen are allowed ſix *Piaſtras* the moneth, they are about thirty. His guarde of *Swiſſes* haue foure *Piaſtras* the moneth; both theſe and they feed at their owne charge, or ſoiorne at ſome place, for they haue no allowance out of the dukes kitchin, not ſo much but the Cookes as I haue heard, haung done their office, go to their owne houses to meat. A buil-der this duke is not at *Liuorno*, where indeed is very great cost bestowed, & very many daily working: howbeit conſidering the labour of his Galley-ſlaues, which all the winter are there imploied, and of many poore men in the country which vpon light faults are thither confined, whose labour he hath paying nothing, it may appear the charge is not halfe ſo much as it would

would cost another. There are also to be considered these expenses, which they call *spese secrete*, secret charges, & no doubt are very great, for that this Prince maketh his way to many effects of much importance by money ; as namely in the Court of *Rome*, where although the Pope that now is was chosen without the good wil, or rather quite against the desire of this Prince, & although the family *Aldobrandini* was alwaies an impeacher of the *Medicies* greatness, and though likewise the father of this Prince executed the father of this Pope ; and albeit lastly this Pope desirereth nothing more, then that by his meanes his natuie countrey might recouer her former liberty yet notwithstanding so strong is this Princes faction in that Colledge, and so many his friends by meanes of his money , as he resteth secured from any such danger . The like intelligence it is said he hath in the *Spaniſh* court by presents and pensions to the *Infanta*, & others of the Counſale , so as by his money he is able to diuert what purposes soeuer. He hath also at his maintenance secret espials in *Florence* for his better securitie, as not yet forgetting the treason of *Pucci* in his brothers dayes.

Concerning his Coines, there is the gold crowne of eight *Liners*; the Ducket of siluer ſeauen *Liners* (which is there called a *Piaſtra*, and ſo much muſt you value the ducket in all this diſcourse ; the halfe Ducket, the Testone, two *Liners*; the *Liner* one *Giuglio* & a halfe ; the *Giuglio* which is ſix-pence ſterling ; the halfe *Giuglio* ; all theſe are of siluer . The *Crazia* of Brasſe, with a ſurface of siluer, the value three-farthings ſterling ; And laſtly the *quattrino*, which is the firſt part of a *Crazia*: there was alſo in times paſt the *denaro*, the fourth part of a *quattrino*, wher-of one hundred & three-score were ſixpence ſterling, but now there are few of them to be ſeen, none to be paid. They of the countrey will complaine that now they haue none but *Moneta grossa* great money : It was a good world ſay they, when we miſt haue chāged a *quattrino* into 4. *denari*; & with theſe haue bought herbes, vineger, oil, & Salt, the 4. ſubſtantiall parts of a ſallet, & this the better part of an *Italian* dinner ; whereas now it wil coſt the ſo many *quattrini*: a great alteration, a groſſe ſum:

Coynes.

As

His abso-  
lute rule.

As touching the manage of matters of state, the administration of Justice, and the disposing of Offices, true it is that the great Duke, though all matters do absolutely and plenarily depend vpon his will and pleasure, yet notwithstanding he will for the most part haue the iudgement and counsaile of the Archbishop of *Pisa*, a man who for his dexteritie of wit, and experience in matters of State, hath purchased himselfe great credit and reputation with his Prince; next vnto him he hath other his Courtiers, to whom sometimes he will communicate some causes, but neither all, nor alwayes: which causeth the Prince to be more absolute, procureth his Counsels a more secret proceeding, giueth his actions a more speedy dispatch, and peraduenture also a more happy issue: so that it cannot properly be said of this Court, that there is a Counsell of state, but that euery thing immediatly hath his motiue, processe, and ending of the Princes will and pleasure.

Admini-  
stration of  
Justice.

Concerning the administration of Justice, and election of officers, it differeth not much from the auncient custome of that Cittie when it was free, the diuers Magistrates and the manner of new choosing them is this.

The Ma-  
gistrates.

There is in the Citty of *Florence* the *Gran Consiglio*, the Seminary as it were out of which all other Magistrates are chosen. Of these some are elected by the great Duke himselfe, as the *Quarant' Otto* of the chiefe Cittizens, and such in whom his Highnesse most affieth. Of which number there must alwaies be one at the least in any other of importance. But the Lieutenant of the Citty, and the *Sei Consiglieri* must be all out of these fortie eight, and these also chosen by the Duke, as likewise the *Dodeci di Collegio*. Other Officers are chosen by *Ballot*, as the *Commissari*, the *Proueditori*, the *Capitani*, *Vicari*, *Podestâ*, and diuers others. For all they that haue office & place of command throughout this state of *Florence*, are Gentlemen of that Citty, as they of the other are all Gentlemen of *Siena*.

*Gl' otto di  
Guardia.*

There is also in *Florence* the *Gl' Otto di guardia e balia*, an office of great authoritie, for these onely giue sentence of life and death, and iudge in criminall causes, these haue their place only foure

foure moneths . In this office the Prince hath alwayes a Secretarie; a *Beneplacito*, his name now in place, is *Buoninsegni*, who euer goeth to his Highnesse to enforme him of the matters in the Court, before they be by the *Otto* determined , and this office hath intelligence of all matters in all criminall Courts in the state, by whom the Courts haue directions from the Prince before they proceed ; to the iudgement or execution of the malefactor.

*Buonin-  
segni a Se-  
cretarie.*

An instance of this we had this January last past , which I The dukes  
the rather remember to make knowne, what care his highnesse  
hath to give our countrey good satisfaction , of whom all Eng-

kinde re-  
spect of the  
English.

lish Gentlemen receiue very gracious faours, as to be admitted to the presence at any *Veglia*, *Reuell*s, or other time of extraordinary sight, also to haue the priuiledge to weare Armes , and other such like . An English Genteman was by a base groome of the house where he lodged, throwne into the *Arno*, for the money he was supposed to haue in his lodging ; the offender, vpon suspition being apprehended, and receiuing the *Strappado* diuers times, and in the highest degree, notwithstanding persisted obstinately in the deniall . The lawe is there, that except he confesse the fact he cannot be executed , how pregnant so euer the presumption be against him; insomuch it was thought he should haue beene discharged : wherevpon the court sent to his Highnesse for direction ; he returned them order to vse all manner of torments which possible , or in any cases that court could inflict, and if yet he would not confesse to torture him till he dyed . According to this commission they gaue him the *Sueglia*, a kinde of torture, where hauing receiued a drinke to procure sleepe , the Tortures euer when he noddeth whip him with small plummets, he sitteth bare vpon an Yron like the back of a knife, and hott Brickes vnder his feete to burne him, if he would ease himselfe that way . It is reported he endured this also, till they came to giue him *L'Arco* the Bowe , at which he confessed . This done he is carried before the court, there freely to say, whether he confessed for feare of torment, or that it is the very truth he said : if he auowe it, they proceed to iudg-

ment, if otherwife , he is returned to the torture ; for this is the onely way to proceed as is before said , how apparent soever the matter be,vnlesse it be proued by two witnessesse. As for witnessse, it is there hard to be had ; being holden a dishonourable thing to be a witnessse, or an enformer, a *Spiā*, as they terme it. Insomuch as if an offence be committed in the streetes in the view of diuers Gentlemen, though they were not of the action, no nor of the company , notwithstanding they shall haue the *Strappado* to confesse the matter, which rather then doe , they will suffer. So that to haue the *Strappado*, in *Florence* is no disparagement , except the cause make it so. But to returne to this matter, which I haue of purpose remēbred, to make it appeare how these courts euен in small matters receiue directions from the Prince. After this fellow had auouched to the Court that he did the fact , they sent againe to his Highnesse to know how they should proceed. He returned, that the malefactor should loose his right hand at the doore where was the Gentleman's lodging, and from thence to be drawne to the place of Execution , there to be hanged and quartered, which was accordingly performed.

*Other of-  
ficers.*

To d' scourse thus at large of each other officer and Court in this Citty of *Florence* , would be ouer tedious : I will therefore onely name the rest, or at least with one word or two pasle the ouer. There is the office of the *Proconsolo*. The six *Capitani delle parti*. The six *Vffiziali de Monti*; the *Vffizio delle Prestanze*, *Lione*, an office of great authoritic, without whose especiall licence, no man may arrest or commence sute against a Courtier or a Souldier, or a stranger. There are the *Oito Conservatori delle leggi*. There be the six *Guidici della Ruota*, which iudge in all causes ciuill, these onely may not be *Florentines*. Also *Li sei della Mercantia*, before whom come all matters of paying or receiving of debts, these onely haue authority to commit to prison for debt . There be also the *Maestri della zecca*, Mint maisters, *La Banca de Pagatori* these pay all Courtiers, souldiers, & other Prouisionati & seruants of his highnesse. Furthermore, the *Vfficio d'Onesta*. These haue authority ouer all actions & pleas of controuersie

trouersie arising in the *Burdello*: here the whore shall haue remedie against her customer that denieth payment of the price agreed vpon. and if he alledge her vnworthiness, she shall be searched, and according as the Court findeth, sentence shall be giuen: with much other such stusse, which better besemeth that Court, then this d' scouse to treate of. The office *de Pupilli*; the office *di Cambio*; the offices *della farina del sale*, *della grascia*, *dell'abondanza*, *delle décime* & many such other; besides the offices of the seauen companies, the *Doganieri* in the Custome house; the *Gabellieri* at the gates; the *Buon'huomini dello stinco*, to prouide for Prisoners; the *Buon'huomini di san Martino*, to prouide for the poore, & infinite such other inferiour offices.

Concerning all these offices abovesaid, me thinkes that some Officers of the may fitly be called officers of the Crown, because they be appointed by the Prince in all chiefe townes of his state to governe & to looke into the counsels and actions of others, as hauing places in them, but no voices. These hold their office for a yeare, and then are either vtterly discharged, or else remoued to some other. Such officers of the crowne we may call the gouernour of *Siena*, the Commissary of *Pisa* and *Pistoia*, the *Podestà* of other places.

As for all other officers, they may well be called of the body Officers of politick, because they retaine the same number, order, and proceedings (with some little difference already touched) which they did when it was a free state. Thus doth the great Duke serue himselfe of persons to administer Iustice, & to command vnder him with names, such as in former times they had, that by this small shadow of auncient liberty, in some sort he might satisfie the ambitious humor of the cittizens, which desire to be in authoritie, and also pleasure them with profit & gaine, which by these honours and publicke offices they doe make.

Concerning their law it is emperiall, intermingled notwithstanding with some exceptions and *proviso's* Municipall. As touching their punishments, which be either crumenall or criminall of the purse or of the person, they haue part y b n remembred already: there be also others as of condemnation to the galles, of confining, of banditing and such like: but omitting

what else herein might be said, I will end this discourse with a word or two of the last branche of this relation, namely of the people themselves.

**The Peo-  
ple.**

The consideration of the ciuill fashion and honourable carriage of the Nobler and better sort of *Tuscanes*, & of the sauage and Gotish behauour and insolence of the Pesant, makes me of opinion with *Lipsius*, that those are of the race of auncient *Romaines*, retaining still a relish of their vertue from whom they are deriuued: and that these are descended from the barbarous *Gothes* and *Cimbrians*(who sometimes swarmed in *Italy*) hauing still the tainte of their inhumanitie. True it is, that this iudgment holdeth generally more in the Pesant then the Nobility, for that we find these more to decline from vertue, then those to swarue from the vices of their Progenitors. And to proue that this is true, I will without any further censuring referre you to the report of an *Italian*, who being their countreymā should know them better, or at least(I am sure, be more partiall). *Boterus* in his vniuersall Relations, speaking of the *Florentines* saith; they be, *Parchi, ritirati, poco amici da forastieri, tenaci del denaro, prouidi dell' auenire, cupi, cogitabondi, d' animo sempre riuolto all' interesse, intenti al quadagno*: and in an other place he giueth them *Sottigliezza d' ingegno, parsimonia, accortezza, dilligenza, attitudine all' Arti un procedere per appunto, un star sul vantaggio, un non trascurare cosa alcuna*: that is; they be niggards they liue to themselves, they loue no strangers they are close-fisted they haue an eye to the back-dore, they are hard to be sounded, they are euer biting the lip, their minde euer on their penny, their study still how to gaine. Also, they are men of a shrewd wit, of a spare dyet, of a warie and discreet carriage, very industrious, very apt to learne, they proceed for an inche, they stand vpon the aduantage, they will not loose the droppings of their nose. This writer hath gotten (and worthely) for many his ouersights in that booke, the imputation of a notable lyar, and for his egre- gious partiallities on the *Spaniſh* side, the note of a notorious flatterer. But sure had the rest of his Booke beene able in the Ballance of truth to haue holden counterpeasable to this iudiciall

ciall report of the *Florentines*, he had well deserued the Pasport  
of Seene and allowed, Cum Priuilegio.

And yet by his leaue I cannot beleeue without some good His witt.  
reason, that the *Florentine* generally hath such a perrous wit, &  
such a subtil conceit I would sooner subscribe he had a subtil  
dyet: for as hath before beene said, I am of that *French-mans*  
minde, that could not finde where that great witt of theirs lay,  
whatsoeuer either by *Maccianell* his report in his historie, or in  
his person may to the contrary be alleadged. I haue heard of  
some *English* Gentlemen, whose abode hath beene there lon-  
ger, and therefore their experience greater, & meanes also very  
good to entertaine conuersation, that the *Florentine* will be ve-  
ry affable and ready to obserue vs with all possib'e comple-  
ment, so long as we will consort him to the *Bardello*, & giue his  
loose and lasciuious discourse the hearing, which is euer of his  
Mistrisse, if not of a worse theame: But if at any time we offer  
the occasion of any better talke, & would discourse with him  
about some matter of pollicie, or historie, or Art, or such like, he  
straight shakes vs off with a shug of the shoulder, *actū est, scili-  
cet*, we haue lost our companion: in this onely wise, that he will  
not talke because he cannot. For who will thinke that this peo-  
ple which do all things *alla mostra*, and speakes alwayes *alla  
grande* ( witnessse their great houises and small furniture of the  
one, their great words and small matter of the other) would  
be squeamish of their knowledge if they had it, that haue such  
quintessence of termes to grace it? Indeed I verily thinke, that  
when the *Florentine* was Lord and Patrone of *Pisa, Pistoia, Vol-  
terra, Arezzo*, and those other Citties, that then he had wit. But  
now I see not why we should not say of him, as we vse to doe  
of young vnthrifts, that were left rich, and haue foolishly spent  
or lost it (*They were well if they had had wit to keepe it*) I dare say,  
that if *Maccianell* were againe liuing, and should see them, that  
were wont to rule a state, now not to bring a few Lettice from  
their *Villa*, but at the gate to toll for them he woud vnsay that  
which he had formerly said, and sweare they had no witte. I  
would not haue said thus much, but that their writers will needs

all of them put the (witte) vpon them, and they forsooth will needs take it. As though witte were confined to *Florence*, and bandited frō all other citties. Let it be concluded of *Florence* as of all other places (without this singularitie) that there be some wise men, but more fooles, and so I will leauē them.

**His aptnes.** As for their aptnesse to learne, whereof this author speaketh, if he meane mechanicall Artes, it is not seene in their shoppes, where yee shall almost haue nothing handfomly done, except workes in cloath of golde and siluer. And as for their liberall Sciences, it is not seene in their Schooles, where in one Vniuersitie yee shall scarce finde two that are good *Grecians*, without the which tongue, they holde in our Schooles in England a man neuer deserueth the reputation of learned. Indeed it can not be denyed, that in two faculties this towne hath had famous men in Painting and Poetry: and I verily thinke that herein *Italy* generally excelleth. And no maruaile, when all their time is spent in Amours, and all their churches deckt with colours.

**His curte-  
ſe.** Their nature (he saith) is close and retired, but sure it is, that after some ſmall acquaintance (especially if he hope to gaine any thing by you) his manner is to offer you all poſſible courtesies, his house, his ſeruants, himſelfe, and what not, he will proffer you his Lewell, or any thing whch liketh you, and euer importune you to dine with him, with all ceremony and complement; (for here they grow) marry he holds it for the greatest diſcourſe in the world, and a *mala creanz ille*, manners to accept any his offers, it is not the fashion of *Tuscany*: for were this custome of taking once vp, the complement of offering would ſoone downe.

**His indu-  
ſtrie.** What else *Roterus* saith I hold moſt true, either of the *Florentines* industry & greedy gaining, or of his paſtimony & thin feeding. Especially at his owne table, or at his Inne, where he paieſt according to his feeding; but let him come to another mans table, or to a certaine ordinary, and he will hold the laſt viue with the taileſt Trencher-man of all *Media*. Of whom one may rightly ſay, as the Poet ſpeakes of the harlott in the

Comedy : at their owne borde, *Nihil videtur mundius, nec magis compositum quicquam nec magis elegans*, but at anothers cost yee shall note, *illorum ingluuem, sordes, inediam*. Though concerning the place it is quite contrary, for the harlots do *pitiſſare* abroad, and *devorare* at home.

As touching their apparell, it is both ciuill, because black, Apparell, and comely because fitted to the body.

For their names, they be those of the old *Romaines* onely altered with an Italian pronunciation and determination. Names.

Concerning their language, it is the best of *Italy*. As for those Language. vngratefull *Tuscans*, that in no case will acknowledge to be beholden to the *Latines* but will eyther haue it a mother toungh of it selfe, or at the least the daughter of the *Caldean* tongue, for that it hath the *Afixa*, as *me, te, se, ne ve*, and such like, very agreeable with that other language, I dare not giue them credit: for if it were plumed of the *Romans* feathers, I thinke it would be but a naked language. True it is, that from the *French* and *Dutch* tongues it borroweth much, and somewhat from the *Greekes*. As *abbassare, allogiare, auanzare, comminciare, donna, gaglicardo*; and infinite others from the *French*, *Arnese*, *becco, brano, brindisi, elmo, fiasce, fresce, giallo*; and many moe from the *Dutche*. They haue also from the *Greekes*, as *Battezzo, catedra, catarro, golfo, gamba, mottegio, rimbombo, rio, &c.* So that if the *Gothe* and *Vandall* had also theirs, I thinke this *Tuscane* tongue would be left nothing but her quaint *diminitives*, wherin consisteth her onely grace; as of *Pouero* the plaine ſong, ſhe runnes a descendant of *Pouerone, Pouerino, Poueretto, and Poueraccio*, and ſo almost of any worde whatſoeuer. This Language also challengeth to haue a ſingular grace in her vocall terminations, as in ſuch words as theſe, *Rinfrecatoio, Temperatoio, Cuoio, Ascugatoio*, and ſuch like; which they of *Tuscany* ſay are of a more ſweete deſinence then any of the *Latine*, and ſo I thinke, howbeit they muſt needs acknowledge the borrowing of this elegancie from one of the *Greeke* dialects, for what can be more like to *μεγαλος θεος* and *δινος αιθωπος*.

As

Different  
speak.

As for the difference of speach among the *Tuscanes*, I thinke it be as great, as was euer the difference of mindes among the *Italians*, and hath as many factions : for as we had in times past the factions *Sassadelli* and *Vaini* in *Imola*: the *Cerchi* and *Donati* in *Florence*: the *Bianchi* and *Neri* in *Pistoia*: the *Fregosi* and *Adorni* in *Genoa*: the *Lambartazzi* and *Gerenei* in *Bologna*: the *Colonna* and *Orsini* in *Rome*: the *Imperialls* and the *French* in all: So haue yee at this day one language of the *Florentine*, another of the *Sanese*, the third of the *Lucchese*, and the fourth of the *Pisan*, but the worst of the *Pistolese*. Yea and in *Florence* it selfe, the language hath now a faction *Guelphe* and *Ghibelline*. Howbeit of these diuersities it is generally held, that the *Florentine* hath the best words, but his pronunciation is somewhat too gutturall; and that the *Sanese* hath the best pronunciation, but his words relish too much of the *Latine*: for so saith their prouerbe; *Fanella Florentina in bocca Sanese*: So that he that shall haue the tearmes of the one, and the accent of the other, *Omne tulerit punctum*, shall hit the marke.

His cu-  
stomes.

His iealousy  
over his wife.

His indul-  
gence over  
his childe.

His valour.

It remaineth I speake of their customes differing from ours; The husband (for the most part) when he goeth abroad, locketh vp his wife (not because he is iealous, (he protests) but because it is the custome.) The Tutor is abused by the Scholler with all odious misdemeanour, yet dare he not correct him least his father should braue him : I know not two worse estates in Italy, then that of a faire wife, and this of a teacher ; the one is euer a prisoner, the other alwayes a slauie ; the one no better then a Birde in a Cage, the other no better then *Geta* in the Scene.

Concerning quarrels, they are carried thus: the party wronged (if not in soine high degree) will challenge the other to fight, if they be both prouided it is presently vndertakē, otherwise it is deferred till the next day, or some such short date ; the place appointed is commonly in the Cittie, and in the chiefest streete : here they encounter with a good Scull vnder their hattes, a large Maile to their knee vnder their apparell, besides their Gauntlet; so that if they had a *Supersedeas* for their face, and

and would doe as the boyes doe in *England* ( barre striking at shinnes ) or as the Schollers of *Padoa*, who haue plates for this purpose : no doubt but *Dametas* and *Clinias* might thus make a tall fray. I saw two gallants in *Pisa* fight thus completely provided, where after a very furious encounter , and a most mercilessle shredding and flashing of their apparrell, with a most desperate resolution to cut one another out of his clothes ; They were (to the sauing of many a stitch) parted, and by mediation with much adoe made friends.

But if it be a wrong wherof he purposeth a reuenge, he will His reuenge waite an oportunitie seauen yeares , but he will take you at the aduantage, or else doe it by some others, whom he will hire for the purpose . In this sort were two slaine in *Pisa* , while I was there, the one a rich Maichant, the other a Knight of the Order, the one comming from his whore, the other going thether. Two also in *Siena* in seauen dayes. And at my comming hither to *Venice*, (for this is generall through all *Italie*) there were on Shroue-sunday at night seauenteene slaine ; and very many wounded : besides that they there reported, there was almost euery night one slaine, all that *Carneual* time. The occasion of most these quarrels and mischiefes arise from the *Burdeilo*. This is also to be obserued , that the party wounded , whereof perhaps in few dayes he dyeth , will neuer discouer by whom he was hurt, except to his Confessor, though he konw him very well : neither will the brother or sonne of him slaine, take any acknowledgment of the dooer , though by circumstance and presumptions they be very sure thereof, but rather awaite the good houre to cric quittance.

Concerning the wooing & winning of his Mistresse fauour, His woo-  
( I meane as our *English* phrase is , in the way of marriage ) he ing.  
must ( as the Poet saith, *Extrema linea amare* ) loue faire and farre off : he may sollicite his cause with passionate Letters , or amorous glances before her windowe , or at the Church, ( the onely place where such matters are managed) but other eyther time, or place, or meanes, he hath not which are ordinary: Insomuch as many times the match is made before he know eyther

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Timewes

5 14-68

how the humour of her braine, or vapour of her stomack will be pleasing to his senscs of hearing and smelling , which may be one chiefe cause why so many husbands dislike, and of their straying to forbidden fruite.

I should take the course in this Relation, which many husbands doe in their wishes , that is , presently after marrying to talke of burying ; which also differeth much from ours in *England*: but if I should speake thereof being a Church action, I should also speake of other Church matters, whereof I purposly omitt to speake ; as also of all other their manners and customes common with other people of *Italy*.

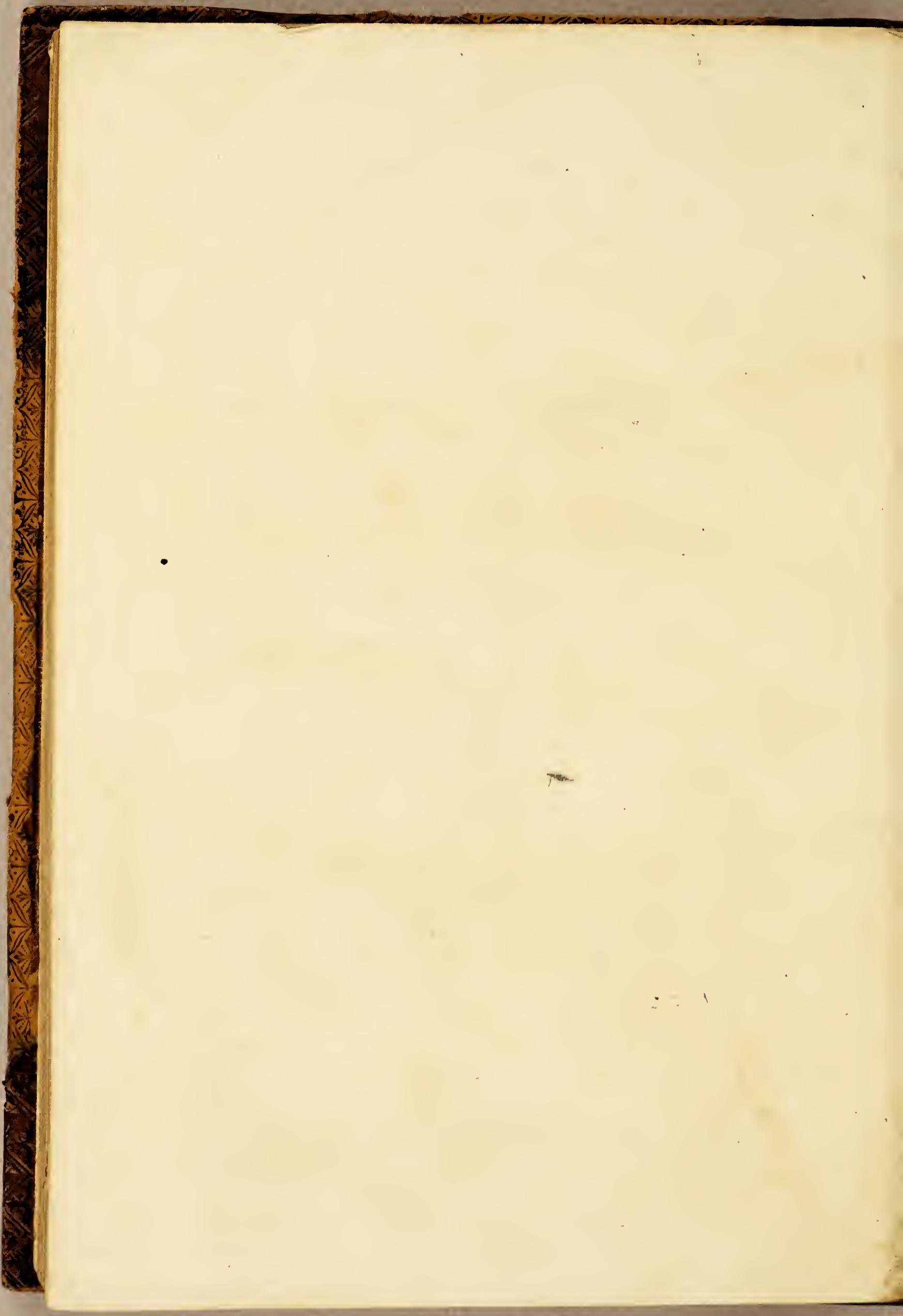
I will therefore knit vp this little Treatise of this great Duchie, with this abrupt period , namely : That this People liues much discontented, as appeareth by their daily and great, (but Priuate ) complainings : hauing fresh in their mindes their former libertie, and heauie on their backes their present yoake. That this State is like a body which hath lately taken Phisick, whose humours are not yet well settled, or as a stomack weakened so much by purging , as there is now nothing left but melancholy. Concluding of this people, as of a person that

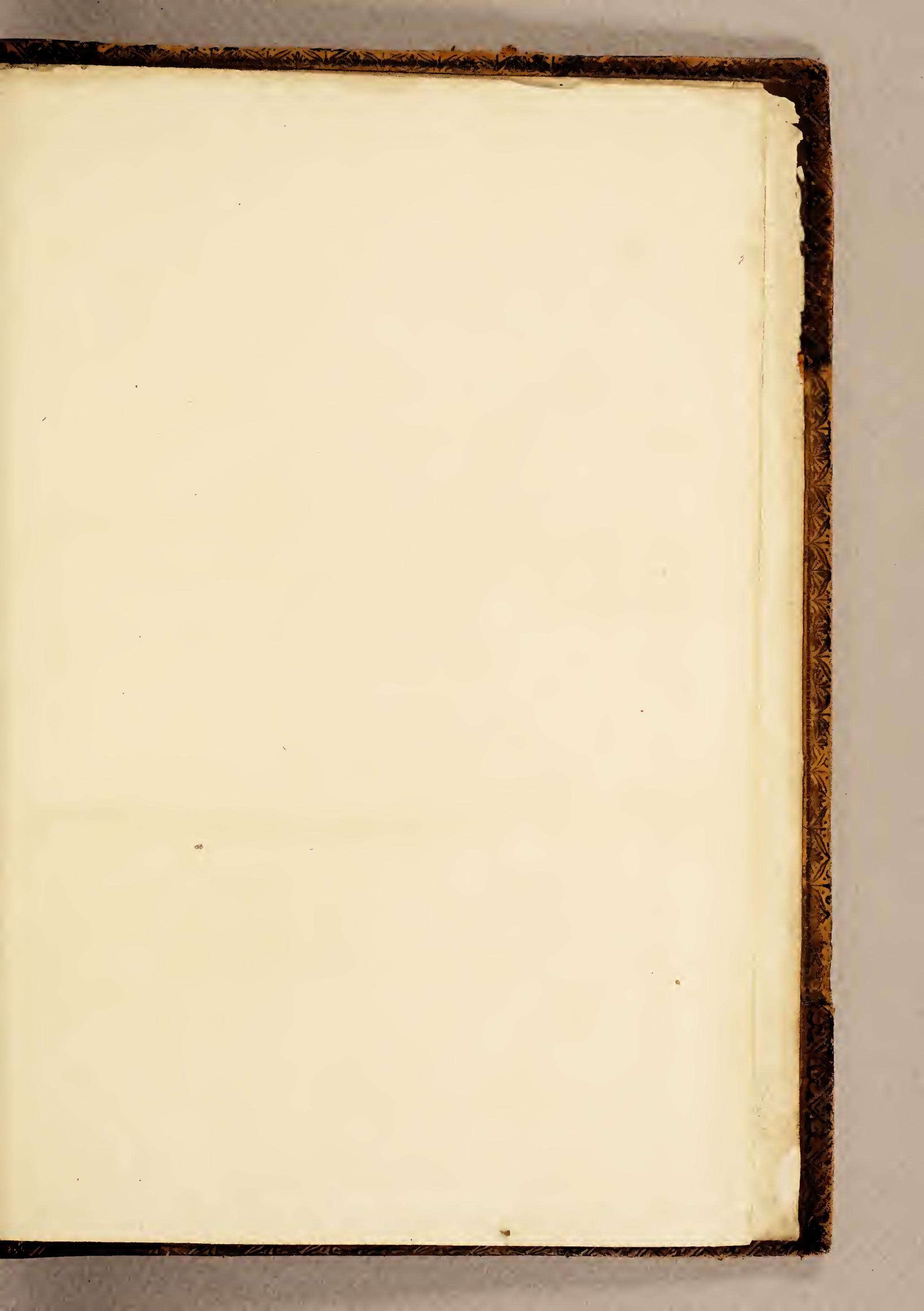
liues alwayes vnder the hands of a Phisition,

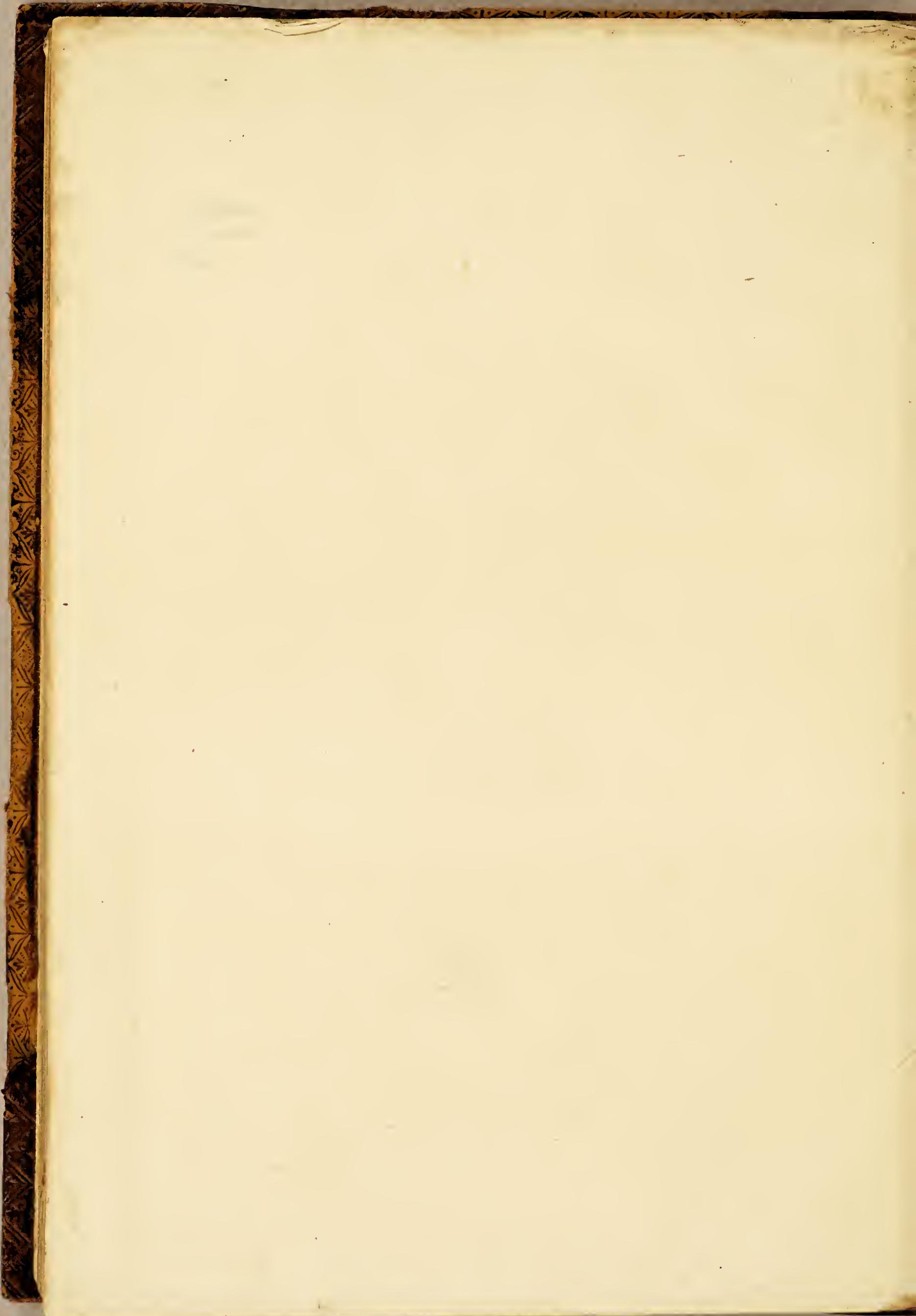
*Qui sub Medicis viuit, misere  
viuit.*

**FINIS.**









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D 475

