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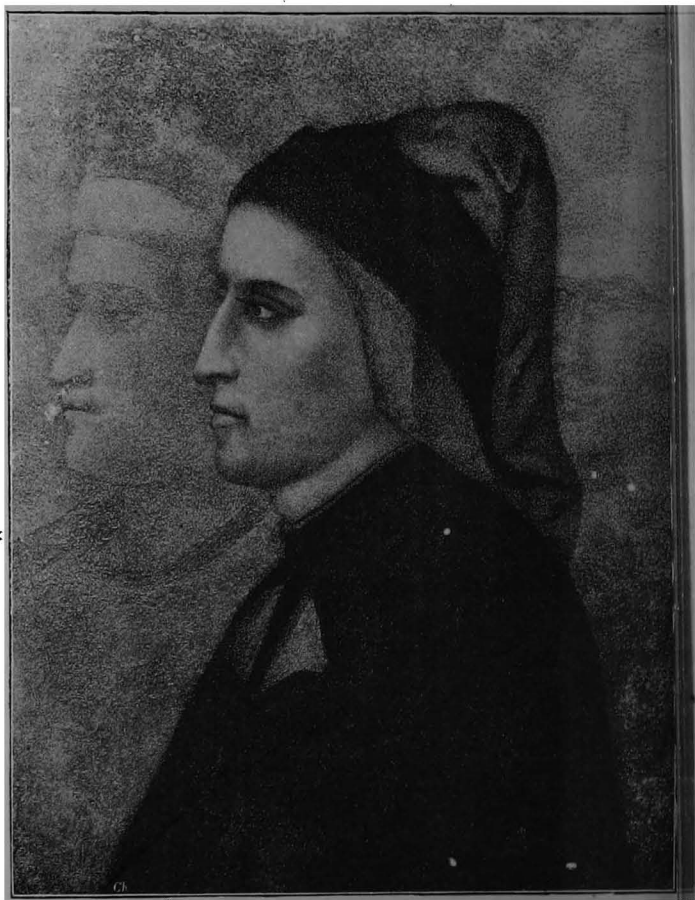
THE TUSCAN REPUBLICS.



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DANTE ALIGHIERI, FROM THE FRESCO BY GIOTTO, FLORENCE.

(After a Photograph by Brogi.)

THE
TUSCAN REPUBLICS

(*FLORENCE, SIENA, PISA, AND LUCCA*)

WITH

GENOA

BY

BELLA DUFFY

London

H. T. FISHER UNWIN
PATERNOSTER SQUARE

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PREFACE.

NO history of the Italian communes could be considered in any sense complete which disregarded the recent researches of German historians into the origin of these little Republics. The reader will find the views of Hegel, Pawinski, and Ficker embodied with as much succinctness as possible in the introductory chapter of this work ; and should he desire to penetrate further on his own account into the subject, he would derive much assistance from the four valuable volumes of original documents with copious annotations, published by Ficker.

As regards Florence alone, and from one point of view, Florence must always be the most interesting of the Italian Republics, articles of extreme interest on the beginnings of the commune have been contributed to the "Nuova Antologia," by Professor Pasquale Villari, and form, it may be hoped, the prelude to a larger work.

As an example of sudden spontaneous growth, yielding original and splendid social results, the Italian Republics are unique in history. Politically speaking, other countries offer a spectacle of more

epic grandeur. The legendary personage, great king, or great warrior, and statesmen is absent from the annals of the towns which strove so passionately to preserve their independence against Pope and Emperor, and against each other; but, on the other hand, the commune itself becomes an unit of fascinating individuality and force.

Genoa has been included in these pages partly because of the close rivalry in which it stood to Pisa in the most brilliant period of both republics; and in a lesser degree because of the contrast afforded by its dreary annals to the distinction in Art and Literature of the Tuscan towns. Taken altogether there are no more instructive examples of self-help and self-destruction, of rapid rise and complete extinction, than are offered by the Commonwealths which for five hundred years controlled the destinies of Tuscany and Liguria.

BELLA DUFFY.





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