



Appendix to the Unpublished Geraldine Documents: The Gherardini of Tuscany

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APPENDIX TO THE UNPUBLISHED GERALDINE DOCUMENTS—THE GHERARDINI OF TUSCANY.

BY A. FITZGIBBON, M. R. I. A.

HISTORY OF THE NOBLE FAMILY OF THE GHERARDINI OF TUSCANY.

THE following selections from a History of the Noble Family of the Gherardini of Florence—whence descended the Geraldines of Ireland—are taken from translation of the whole of Gamurrini's History of the Gherardini Family, deposited in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy.

Gamurrini's Genealogical work consists of four volumes; a copy of which is in the Library of the British Museum, marked 136, B. 13. Another copy exists in the National Library at Florence. Its title is as follows:—

Istoria-Genealogica delle Famiglie Nobili Toscane et Umbre, descritta dal Padre Don Eugenio Gamurrini, Abbate Cammense, Nobile Aretino, Accademico-Apatista; Consigliero et Elemosiniere Ordinario della Maestà Christianissima di Lodovico XIV., Re di Francia e di Navarra, Teologo e Familiare dell' Altezza Serenissima di Cosimo III., Gran Duca di Toscana consecrato alla Medesima Altezza.

In Fiorenza, 1671, folio.

Genealogical History of the Noble Tuscan and Umbrian Families, described by Father Don Eugenio Gamurrini, Abbot of Casino, a Noble Aretine, Member of the Academy of Apathists; Counsellor and Almoner in Ordinary of His Most Christian Majesty Louis XIV., King of France and Navarre; Theologian and Familiar of His Most Serene Highness Cosmo III., Grand Duke of Tuscany. Dedicated to His Highness.

THE FAMILY OF THE GHERARDINI.

Vol. II., pp. 111-138.

I was not a little doubtful (although the fact is certain) as to whether the Geraldine Family now in Ireland derived its origin from our Gherardini Family now in Tuscany, since it was competent for me to

trace it both to the Gherardini of Florence and to the Giraldini now in Amelia, one of whom is the Prior Giraldini, at present first Gentleman of the Chamber to the Grand Duchess of Tuscany: which latter family, in very ancient times, sprang from the Lords of Catenaiia, who were very noble and very powerful citizens of Arezzo; but the arguments in favour of the Gherardini of Florence are so strong, that I cannot refuse my assent to them; especially since they are acknowledged as kinsmen by the Family in Ireland, as is testified in numerous letters, and moreover in an ancient document contained in a book of Records, signed B, by Signor Antonio d'Ottaviano di Rossellino Gherardini of Florence, in which we read as follows:—

“I recollect how in the month of October, in the year 1413, there passed through Florence an Irish Bishop, brother of the order of St. Augustine, with whom was a priest of the Cathedral Church of Ardferit, named Maurice, who was of the Gherardini Family that dwelt in the Island of Ireland; and while seeking for some one in Florence, who had been in those parts, he came upon Niccola di Luca di Feo, who had been a merchant in the City of London, to whom he said that his ancestors were of the same blood as that of the Gherardini of Florence; and for that reason he wished to become acquainted with some members of that House. Luca conducted him to me, and we called together Ottaviano di Cacciattino and Papi di Piero di Cacciattino de Gherardini.

“This Maurice first recognised us as being of the number of his blood relations; then about their having been in Ireland, he spoke thus to us. That a long time ago, Tommaso and Maurizio de'Gherardini, having gone out from Florence on account of civil dissensions, were with the King of England at the time of the conquest of the Island of Ireland; and having served him in that expedition with loyalty and valour, they were left as Presidents in that Island, with the gift of many Lordships.

“He said that this conquest, and the actions and valour of the said Gherardini, are mentioned in a Chronicle called the Red Book, which is in the City of Emerlic,¹ and that these afterwards multiplied into many Gentlemen and Barons, who have a great number of vassals.

“He said besides, that at that time there were living, a descendant of Gherardo, called Gerald Earl of Kildare; a descendant of Tommaso called Thomas Earl of Desmond, and five Barons descended from Maurizio.”

This account and record tallies with the one given by the Earl of Kildare to Antonio di Giovanni Manni, a Florentine merchant who had been in Ireland; and these two accounts are confirmed by that written by Christofano Landino, in the preface to his Commentary on the “Commedia” of Dante Aldighieri, the famous Poet, in which he says:—

“There were in England three brothers, Tommaso, Gherardo, and Maurizio, of the very ancient family of the Gherardini of Florence, driven into exile by civil dissensions; these brothers, in the conquest of Ireland, an Island not much smaller than England, brought to the King of England help so prompt, so willing, and so faithful, that when the Island was subjugated they were invested with the Lordship of all the flat parts of it, where there are many people; and again in our times there remain

¹ Perhaps Limerick is here intended.

Gentlemen their descendants; chief among whom are the Earl of Kildare and the Earl of Desmond. Neither the name, nor the armorial bearings¹ of the Gherardini of Florence, have been changed by them. They show besides a letter, the tenour of which is faithfully registered here.”

‘The direction of the letter runs thus :—

“ ‘This may be given to all the family of the Gherardini of noble renown and virtue, dwelling in Florence, our most beloved brothers in Florence.’ In the inside as follows :—

“ ‘Gerald Earl of Kildare, Viceroy of the whole Kingdom of Ireland, to all the Family of the Gherardini inhabitants of Florence. Health.

“ ‘Most grateful to us have been your letters, Excellent Sirs, by which we have been enabled easily to understand and know the depth of the fraternal love which you bear to your own blood. But in order that your joy should reach its full, I shall briefly inform you of the condition of your Family in these parts. Know then that my Predecessors and Ancestors passed from France into England, where they lived for a short time, and in the year 1140 came into this Island of Ireland, in which by the power of their sword they obtained many possessions, and performed great feats of arms, and have up to the present day increased and multiplied into divers branches and Families. The consequence is that I, by the grace of God, and by hereditary right, possess the Earldom, and am Earl of Kildare, with many castles and possessions. And through the liberality of our Most Serene Master the King of England, I am Vicegerent over all Ireland henceforth, at the pleasure of his Majesty, a post held by my father and many of his Predecessors.

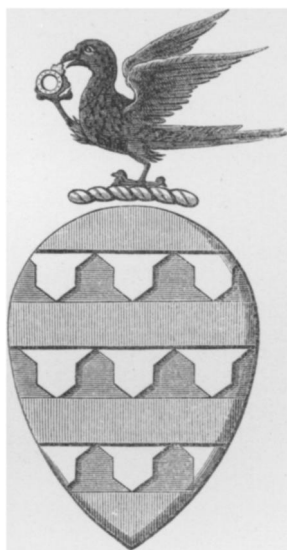
“ ‘Near in these parts is one of our Relations, called the Earl of Desmond, who has under his Lordship an extent of country one hundred miles in length. Let me inform you that our House in this region has further increased in numbers by a multitude of Barons, Knights, and Noble Persons, who have various possessions and numerous vassals owing them obedience. We should greatly desire to become acquainted with the deeds of our ancestors, therefore if you have any record make the same known to us, as also what may have been the origin of our House.

“ ‘I shall be delighted to become acquainted with it, as also about the numbers, and what are the names of the greatest of your ancestors. Also if there are any of the Family in France, and what members of our Family dwell in the Roman Country, and how things are going on. I should wish to know all this, for I derive no small enjoyment in receiving news of our Family and of its Prosperity. Should there be anything here which our skill and industry might procure, and which we might present to you, especially things which are not to be found in your Country, such as hawks, falcons, horses, or hunting dogs, as may be agreeable to you, I beg you will apprise me of the same, as I shall always endeavour to obey your wishes.

“ ‘May God hold you in his keeping, etc. Let us reciprocate our love.

¹ This is not the case; the arms of the Gherardini were, Gules three bars vair; quite different from the Geraldine arms. See the Plate which faces this page, engraved from a blazon supplied by Count

Passerini of Florence, and also the arms of the Gherardini, engraved from the ancient sculptured shield over the door of the church of S. Margarita, at Montici, near Florence, at p. 264, *infra*.



ARMS OF THE NOBLE FAMILY OF THE GHERARDINI,
From the Liber d'Oro.

“From our Castle of Castledermot, on the 27th day of May, 1507.¹

“Gerald, head in Ireland of the Family of the Geraldines, Earl of Kildare, and Vicegerent of the Most Serene King of England in Ireland.”

There is also a narrative of some Florentine merchants in London who have had dealings at that Court, and the following is the substance of it:—

“That in Ireland there is a people, living near the high and woody parts of the Island, disaffected to the Crown of England, and who at the time of the war retired into the woods, and were, therefore, called the ‘Wild Irish.’

“King Henry VIII., wishing to reduce them by force to better obedience, ordered together a military force which he sent to the Island, and though the enterprise ended successfully, and in everything conformably to his will, he remained nevertheless, either with truth or pretence, ill-satisfied with the Earl of Kildare, as if he had been secretly alienated from his will, in that war; for which reason he had him made prisoner with others of that Family, suspected for the same cause (Henry being of a hasty and violent temper), and ordered him to be beheaded.

“This Earl of Kildare left a youth who bore the name of Gerald, but was generally called in the English language Lord Garrett Earl of Kildare, which translated into our tongue signifies Signore Gherardini Conte di Childaria. In the time of King Henry he followed the Court, and afterwards came into Italy, diverting himself at Padua and Venice, with Monsignor Piero Carnesechi, and he came with him to see the City of Florence.

“King Edward VI. died shortly afterwards, and was succeeded by Queen Mary, by whom, on returning to court, he was graciously received, and he married one of her favourite Ladies.”

There is still extant a letter from Girolamo Fortini, of the year 1566, who writes to his brother Paolo in London, that he has taken to wife a daughter of Antonio, son of Piero Gherardini, and Paolo in reply mentions that he had known there the Earl of Kildare, of the same family of the Gherardini of Florence, from whom he had received as a present several sorts of dogs, which he sent to his brother in Florence.

To all these testimonies we add that of Verini, who sings of this Family of Gherardini in the following verses:—

“Clara Gherardinum Domus est, haec plurima quondam
Castella incoluit foecundis Collibus Elsoe.
Insignisque Toga, sed enim praestantior armis
Floruit, huius adhuc veneratur Hibernia nomen.”

The House of the Gherardini is illustrious, formerly
It inhabited many Castles in the fruitful hills of Elsa;
And renowned in peace, but still more excellent in arms
It flourished; and Ireland still venerates its name.

This opinion is followed by Jean Baptiste l’Ermite de Soliers, in his

¹ There is extant a letter of an earlier date (1440), written by Leonardo Bruni, Secretary of the Florentine Republic, and carried to Ireland by Giovanni Betti di

Gherardini, who came over to become acquainted with the Earl of Kildare and his other kinsmen of the Geraldines.—Gilbert’s “Viceroy of Ireland,” p. 335.

“*Toscane Francaise*,” in which he treats of this House of the Gherardini, respecting the above-mentioned verses, and discoursing upon them with the authority of a Villani or a Mini, but with little foundation regarding the origin and the representatives of the Gherardini in Tuscany, so that we cannot exactly accept his account of them.

We ought not, however, to condemn altogether this French author, but regret that one is not on the spot where all the writings of the Gherardini may be seen, referring to him about them when he writes of the Gherardini of France, sprung as they are, no doubt, from those of Tuscany, as will be shown by me conclusively, in setting forth the genealogical tree.

The reasons adduced, coupled with the fact of the Gherardini of Ireland bearing the same arms, the same family name, and their being of Florence, show that there is indubitable evidence of their belonging to the same Gherardini now living in Florence; but not in the manner stated by the French author, who mixes up the Gherardini della Rosa with the Gherardini who did not enjoy the Gonfalonierate, nor even the Priorate, and who were always kept at a distance from the Government; but who certainly held the Consulate, which was the supreme grade before the Galfonierate; being powerful and suspected by the people, and the other great families who governed at that time, as all historians show.

Still we must not impugn the above-mentioned author because he does not speak according to the writings, and does not make out the genealogy, confusing the time of the three brothers, Maurice, Thomas, and Gerard, who went from France into England in the year 1140, as the same English Gherardini show in their writings sent to the Gherardini of Florence. Yet the Frenchman blunders not a little. But leaving the authors, we shall come to prove all by authentic writings, and by the archives, which, although scarce in remote ages, we come nevertheless to have some knowledge of their antiquity, since we prove it from the year nine hundred to the present time.

The first writing then which is met with respecting this family is a donation, made by Gherardo, son of Rainerio, to the Canonical house of the Metropolitan Church of Florence, for the soul of Jolitta his wife, of some property situated in Bucciano, and some other property near the Church of S. Piero in Jerusalem, where the Gherardini have always held possessions from remote times.

These are even called the Gherardini of Bucciano, as will be mentioned shortly; which writing is found in the archives of the above-named Canonical house, drawn up in the year 1020 by Pietro the Notary.

Ranierio, father of the above-named Gherardo, was the son of Ramberto, and this latter was the son of another Ranierio, as is written in another document of 1001, drawn up at Florence; and Ramberto, son of Ranierio, is written in a sentence given in the presence of many noble ambassadors of the Emperor in the time of the Emperor Otho, in the seventh year of his reign; which documents are preserved in the above-named archives of the Canons of the Metropolitan Church of Florence.

We may, therefore, come to a conclusion about the root of this tree, commencing at nine hundred and ten (910), according to the genealogical scale.

From Gherardo and Jolitta was born Ccee, father of Guido and of

Ugone, as is proved by a gift made by the said Guido to the Monastery of Settimo, of the lands which he possessed in Orgnano and in Ponticello; that is to say, the half of them: the other half was given to the Church of St. Stephen d'Orgnano, as is attested by Pietro in the year 1090, which deed of gift is preserved in the archives of the City of Settimo, and in those of Cestello of Florence, which are not yet put in order.

Ugone, the son of Cece, is written as a witness in a contract drawn up in 1131, by Gherardo, which is preserved in the archives of the Abbey of St. Michael the Archangel, marked number 1495, and Ottaviano was his son, as is seen in another contract drawn up by Sacchetto in 1146, in the archives of Cestello. Guido, above-mentioned, was father of Raimondino and another Guido, as seen in the above-mentioned donation of lands situated in Orgnano.

Ottaviano was father of Gherardino, who had a son Uguecione, and another son Ottaviano; which Uguecione we read of as Consul in 1197, on his taking an oath which he does with other Consuls for the observance of the League among many communities of Tuscany, as in Book 26 to 42; and Ottaviano is mentioned as Consul in 1200, and in 1203; Book 3 of Chapters, folio 5, as also Cece their brother in the year 1202, as in Book 29a. c. 22, 80, and in Book 26, chap. 7.

Ugucione was the father of Messer Filippo, and Messer Cece, who swore fealty to Bishop Giovanne, *per omnes articulos fidelitatis* (by all the articles of fidelity), as is gathered from the notes of Borghino our monk, Prior of the Innocents of Florence, and a famous historiographer of his time; and this same oath is also mentioned in the book called the *Bullotone*, which is preserved in the archives of the Archbishoprick of Florence, where can be still read "D. Cece, D. Pegolottus, et D. Philippus, fratres et filii Ugucionis, et D. Philippus, D. Pegolotti omnes Nobiles ex Domo filiorum Gherardini" (D. Cece, D. Pegolottus, and D. Philippus, brothers and sons of Ugucione, and D. Philipus, D. Pegolotti, all nobles of the house of the sons of Gherardini) in 1251; and in 1267 we read "Nobiles Bernardinius filius D. Baldovinetti del Cece et Philipus filius D. Pegoletti" (the noble Bernardinus son of D. Baldovinetto, son of Cece, and Philipus, son of D. Pegoletti) who take oath at the same Archbishoprick with other nobles, as in the above-quoted book; and likewise D. Ottavianus, son of Cece, of 1231, in the same book.

The Gherardini of Ireland, according to the computation of years, must have had for their father Gherardino, who flourished in 1140, and whose sons were Tommaso, Gherardo, and Maurizio, who went into England, and others who remained in Florence, as will be shown shortly; who, possessing very lofty towers in Florence, endeavoured to overthrow the other citizens, and fighting one against another they were compelled to leave the city and retire into the country; there they fortified themselves, and became, as it were, the *Domicelli* of Florence.

Others, such as Tommaso and the other brothers, joined in the war which King Edward [*recte* Henry] waged in the time of Pope Alexander III.

This is confirmed by what Giovanni Villani says, speaking of the above-named war, and by the history of England, which declares that they came from Florence on account of the civil wars which took place in 1170.

It is confirmed likewise by the genealogical tree here annexed of this

family of the Gherardini of Florence, of England, and of France, a branch of which lived with much glory, as it still lives, at the Court of the King of England, conformably to what has been said above, as also to the histories, letters, and narratives given here by the Gherardini of Florence, and the word of mouth testimony of the Geraldts of Ireland.

The Gherardini of France are born from the above-mentioned Bernardino, father of that Noldo who was exiled from Florence, as we read in the account of the peace made at Civitella in the year 1311 with Bettucio Pulci; and from him was born that Pietro Gherardini who followed the Duke of Athens and Brienne into Champagne. The latter, while High Constable of France under King John, was wounded, and died at the battle of Poitiers, in the year 1356; through whose means and his own valour, Pietro Gherardini received from the king the land of Mirail, within eight leagues of the town of Brienne, where he established for the family of the Gherardini or Gerardini a home in the beautiful kingdom of France. This same Pietro caused to be erected a sumptuous chapel, on the glass windows of which, even to this day, his effigy is seen depicted, completely armed; his sword at his side, booted and spurred, with laurels at his feet, emblematic of his great and glorious victories, triumphant in so beautiful and noble a province.

His letters of naturalization may still be seen entered in the year 1363, on the Register book, in Latin, in which he is called *Petrus Gerardini de Florentia*. Similarly we read in these archives *de Gerardinis, et de Gherardinis*; and in all the old writings Gherardo means the same as Gerardo, as we see *passim*.

From the Peter above mentioned, who was grand forester to the King of France, was born, according to Monsier Tristan (L'Hermite de Soliers) in his *Toscane Française*, another Peter, grandfather of Giovanni of the same name, who had retired to Hervi, a castle situated three leagues from their above-mentioned territory of Marail, which word, in the said French tongue, is pronounced Marèl, who, not by any possibility expecting these goods of fortune necessary to maintain himself conformably to his high birth and condition, was summoned before the Lieutenant-General in the Balliage of Troyes, to surrender to him his fiefs, and pay with these the indemnity due to the king. But that judge, knowing his necessities, and taking into consideration his high birth, sent him back to his own estates, and restored the possession of them to him; as by his own decree, and sentence of the 16th May of the year 1520, is made manifest.

Afterwards, Arnolde Gerardini, one of his successors, living at Triefui under the same Balliage of Troyes, obtained the confirmation of the said sentence by a decree given by the *Cours d'Aides* of Paris, on the 2nd of the month of April, in the year 1607. Of this same branch has come, from father to son, two brothers full of worth, caressed by fortune, and much known in that Court.

But since death, which is too prompt, has carried away the former, much to our regret, who has left a second posterity, of which the eldest born at the present is now living as Treasurer of the Casual Accounts, and continues to acquire, not only friends, but also a high reputation, to such a point that he has written to mention his having obtained from his most Christian Majesty the post of Governor of the Household of the Dauphin, and that he exercises it with great honour.

Filippo, son of Ugucione, was father of Giovanni, who had for wife Donna Ansualda *filia D. Rossi, D. Teghiarij de Boudelmontibus*, as is read in a document made by the said Ansualda, whilst a widow, in 1316, drawn up by Bartolo d'Ughetto, a Florentine citizen; which is preserved in the archives of the Certosa of Florence, in Case B, Number 78; and from her Giovanni had a son, Gherardino, father of Nicotto, so celebrated in the Florentine Republic, being called in Book D of 1378 *D. Nicolaus Nicolai Gherardini Joannis de Gherardinis*; and of the above-named Giovanni, D. Lottus was the brother, as is read in the Reformations of Florence in the Book of Counsels of 1280; as was also Cece, to be seen in another document drawn up by Albertino di Bencivenni di Lomana in 1384, also in the same archives.

Messer Baldovinetto, besides being father of Bernardino, was likewise father of Arnolfo, who had a son Lotteringo, as may be gathered from the archives of Passiguano, in a document of 1239, in which Messer Baldovinetto, son of Messer Cece of Florence, with Arnolfo his son, and with the consent of the Countess, wife of Messer Baldovinetto, renounced in favour of the said Abbey di Passiguano, an obligation which it had to give every year as service and tax, some pigeons, to the father and predecessors of the said Countess, on account of the Castle of Poggialvento: Case E, Number 88; which compare with the notes made by Scipione Ammirati, which are in S. Maria Nuova di Fiorenza. Messer Lotteringo, son of Arnolfo, called Tuigo, is mentioned in the Book of Imposts of 1288, in the parish of S. Stefano a Ponte, which was made (for the quarter of S. Piero Scaraggio) by Filippo Cialuffi and the old Girolannis and Truffino degli Amidei; of which Messer Lotteringo we shall speak next as having been a celebrated man.

Of this Messer Lotteringo were born Noldo, and Rinaldo, who form the three branches of the Gherardini living in Florence. And first we shall speak of Noldo, of whom were born several sons: among these was Ugolino, who was father of Antonio, who had a son Noldo, of whom we read in the Tithes Register of the parish of S. Pancrazio del Valdarno, diocese of Fiesole, as patrons of the said parish, where also we read the names of Anton Maria, son of the above-named Noldo, and likewise of Piero, his brother. Of the said Piero, who was father of Niccolo, in 1471, we read Niccolo, son of Piero, who was son of Antonio, who was son of Ugolino, and in connexion with these names of Piero, father of the said Niccolo, and brother of the said Noldo, we read Anton Maria and Gio. Gualberto, sons of the said Noldo, as also of others of the Gherardini family; and we follow likewise the line of Lorenzo, son of Alamanno, who was son of Antonio, who was son of Piero, who was son of Niccolo, known at the Tithes Registry, and at the Baptismal Registry; as well as that of Gio. Carlo, son of Francesco, who was son of Anton Maria, who was son of another Francesco, and he the son of another Anton Maria.

Of Rinaldo was born, besides other sons, Antonio called Boccaccio, as is read in the peace made by the Duke of Athens on the 11th December of the year 1342, between the family of the Gherardini and that of Monterinaldi, both families being among the grandees of Florence; all the names of the Gherardini are given. This peace is in the Reformations of Florence, as will be shortly told. The said Antonio was father of Toccio, as is read in the division of a shop under the tower of the Gherardini,

written by Andrea Ciampelli; where likewise are read all the names of the Gherardini living at that time in Florence, as shall be set forth in the proper place.

Of Toccio was born Piero, father of another Piero, whose line became extinct; and Antonio, who was father of another Toccio, whose true name was Tommaso; all of whom may be read in the presentation they conferred on the parish of S. Pancrazio, in the Valdarno, in the year 1471, which says: Piero, son of Piero who was son of Toccio; and Toccio (Tommaso) who was son of Antonio, who was son of Piero, all of the Gherardini family; and from this Tommaso called Toccio are living Bartolommeo and Carlo, sons of Cammillo, who was son of Tommaso, who was son of Bartolommeo, who was son of Tommaso called Toccio; as is found in the Tithe-lists, and in the Baptismal Register.

The line of Messer Ottaviano, although noteworthy, has not been set forth in consequence of its having become extinct; but heroic actions are narrated of his descendants, as well as of others (of the same family) who are not placed on this Tree, through their being too numerous.

The Tree having been explained by us with the branches existing at the present day of this most noble and most ancient family of the Gherardini, of whose origin an accurate account cannot be completely given, though finding it always among the first families of Florence, even in the year eight hundred (800). But we may well believe what Malnotti, a noble and famous historian of the City of Siena, has remarked in his annotations, as also what has been said by the very diligent Celso Cittadini, most skilful in the genealogies of that noble country of Siena, and similarly what has been left in writing by the noble antiquarian Belisario Bulgarini, likewise a Sienese, all of whom agree in asserting that the family of the Gherardini, having quitted Arezzo on account of the civil wars of the Romans, took refuge in Siena, with thirty other noble families of Arezzo, and thus gave a noble increase to the above-named City of Siena.

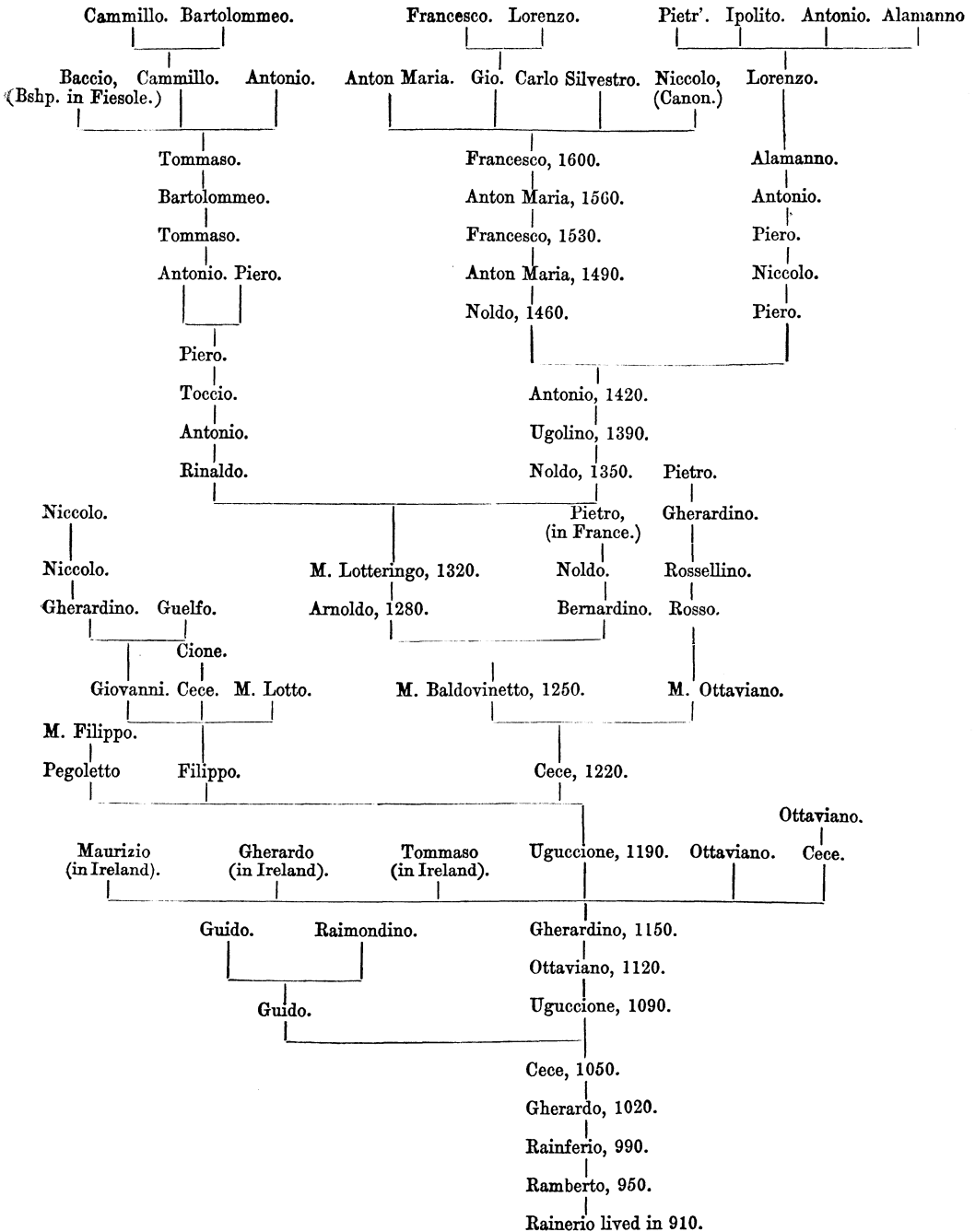
Hence, with reason founded on authority, and the fact of remaining in possession of their ancient property, one may conclude that they had their origin in the City of Arezzo, then a very powerful Republic; the more so, as they held possessions in the Valdarno, subject then to the inhabitants of Arezzo, as well as other lands, some of which were in the territory of Siena.

The lack of documents deprives us totally of these curiosities which all living would wish to have; therefore we cannot know for certain more than that Ramberto son of Ranieri was present with many other nobles at a decision pronounced by Envoys from the Emperor Otho the Great, in the seventh year of his reign, mentioned by us above; from which one perceives the nobility of this House, which has the highest, the noblest, the most powerful origin that one can imagine.

Members of it were exiled with other noble inhabitants of Arezzo, who belonged to the factions and powerful party, as the very powerful Licinian family of Arezzo was exiled from that Republic, which family is mentioned by Titus Livius under the designation *most powerful*, through whom sprang up afterwards so many wars, as is related in our first volume respecting that said family.

Many persons then, born of this blood, gave lustre to this family.

First among them we ought to mention as a remarkable man Gher-



GENEALOGICAL TREE OF THE GHERARDINI OF FLORENCE, ACCORDING TO GAMMURRINI.

ardo, son of Ramberto (Rainerio), conspicuous for his piety through his donations made to churches, and particularly to the Metropolitan Church of Florence, in the year 1020, as we have stated above; and the same was done by Cece and Guido, and all their descendants, who founded many churches; and some of these descendants, even down to our own time, have conferred, and do still confer benefices, among which is that of the parish of S. Pancrazio in the Valdarno; that of the Badiola of S. Maria in Colle, without a cure of souls, which was already united to the above-named parish; but in the year 1478, with the consent of the Gherardini, the patrons, it was separated from the Ordinary; and by the same patrons it was presented to Messer Lorenzo, son of Antonio Gherardini, on the 12th May, as attested by the Ser Benedetto da Romagna."

[Here follows an account of many presentations made by members of the Gherardini family to various churches, including one to the Church of S. Margherita, at Montici, near the City of Florence, and near which church the Gherardini family had a large tower and residence. The remains of this tower are still (1875) in existence.]

On account of the burning of the archives of the Archbishoprick of Florence, and likewise those of the Bishoprick of Fiesole, we have no knowledge as to which particular members of the Gherardini family founded so many churches, all of which are ancient, as may be seen by their style of building; and, therefore, one may believe that the said churches owed their erection to the piety of the family of the first Gherardo, and to that of his descendants, namely, his sons, nephews, and grand-nephews.

The sons of the said Gherardo were many, and all of them distinguished, as were also the nephews, they being always in the Consulate, which was the first and most ancient rank, and superior to every other in Republics; and therefore with great reason they were anciently called and declared to be Grandees of Florence, and as such they were always excluded by the people from the office of Gonfaloniere, which was instituted after the suppression of the Consulate and the Anziani, the people wishing to be apart from the Government, and not remain under that of the Grandees, from among whom the Consuls were chosen.

Ugucione, Cece, and Ottaviano, sons of Gherardino, were all three elected Consuls, as has been shown above.

Maurisio, Tommaso, and Gherardo, departed from Florence in the time of the Civil Wars, which sprung up among the Grandees, as is mentioned by Giovanni Villani, in the year 1172, who says that they possessed towers in the City of Florence, and that they went to serve the King of France, Louis the Young, after whose death they served Philip II. his son, also King of France, who, being on friendly terms with Henry II., King of England, was asked by him for some Italian Commandants, not wishing to confide either in the English or in the French for the conquest of Ireland, or Hibernia. Therefore, the above-named King of France, Philip II., gave him Maurizio, Tommaso, and Gherardo Gherardini, Florentines, who, as valiant brothers, might be able to serve with all fealty and secrecy his Britannic Majesty in the aforesaid undertaking, which had not been successful to him in the year 1155, it having been entrusted to some of the principal nobles of his kingdom.

Having now, however, confided the whole to the above-named

brothers, Maurizio, Tommaso, and Gherardo, Henry went in the year 1182 to the conquest of Ireland, where Maurizio, as chief, assisted by the valour of his brothers, achieved inexpressible wonders, and, striking and assailing on all sides, subjugated at last that kingdom, by which acquisition the Kings of England have always reigned over it; and King Henry, recognising the valour of Maurizio, supported by that of his two brothers, gave to them immense estates in the said kingdom, as has been above mentioned, according to the relations and the historians.

And the whole is confirmed by the Tree, by the histories, the facts, and the times.

Moreover, Luca di Linda, in his description of England and Ireland, uses the following words:—*Very great were the revenues pertaining to the English Exchequer* (speaking of Ireland), produced by the property of those who prematurely endeavoured to free themselves from the superior power of England, as may be learned from the history of events in the past century; because, in the year 1578, the Earl Gerald of Desmond being dead, who had taken arms against Queen Elizabeth, with the aid of the King of Spain and of the Pope, his earldom was confiscated, with other possessions of his confederates, to the extent of 574,628 acres of land, from which the Exchequer drew 2266 pounds sterling, as the *English writer, Fynes Morrison, asserts.*

From this one may conceive how rich and powerful was this House of the Gherardini of Ireland, at the present day divided into very numerous families.

[But, passing from this family to the Gherardini of Florence—who were called great and powerful, as they truly were—the author (Gamurrini) proceeds with a history of the Gherardini of Florence, down to his own time, 1671, including a description of the ceremonies observed at the installation of Knights of the Bath, and of the Banquet (Corredo), as well as an account of the circumstances under which Saladin was made a Knight of the Bath by Messer Ugo de Tabaria, in Italy, and some remarks on the noble title of Messere, and concludes with an epitome of the History of the Geraldines, Earls of Desmond, and Palatines of Kerry, written by Brother Dominicus De Rosario O'Daly, published in Lisbon, A. D. 1655, which Gamurrini commences thus:]

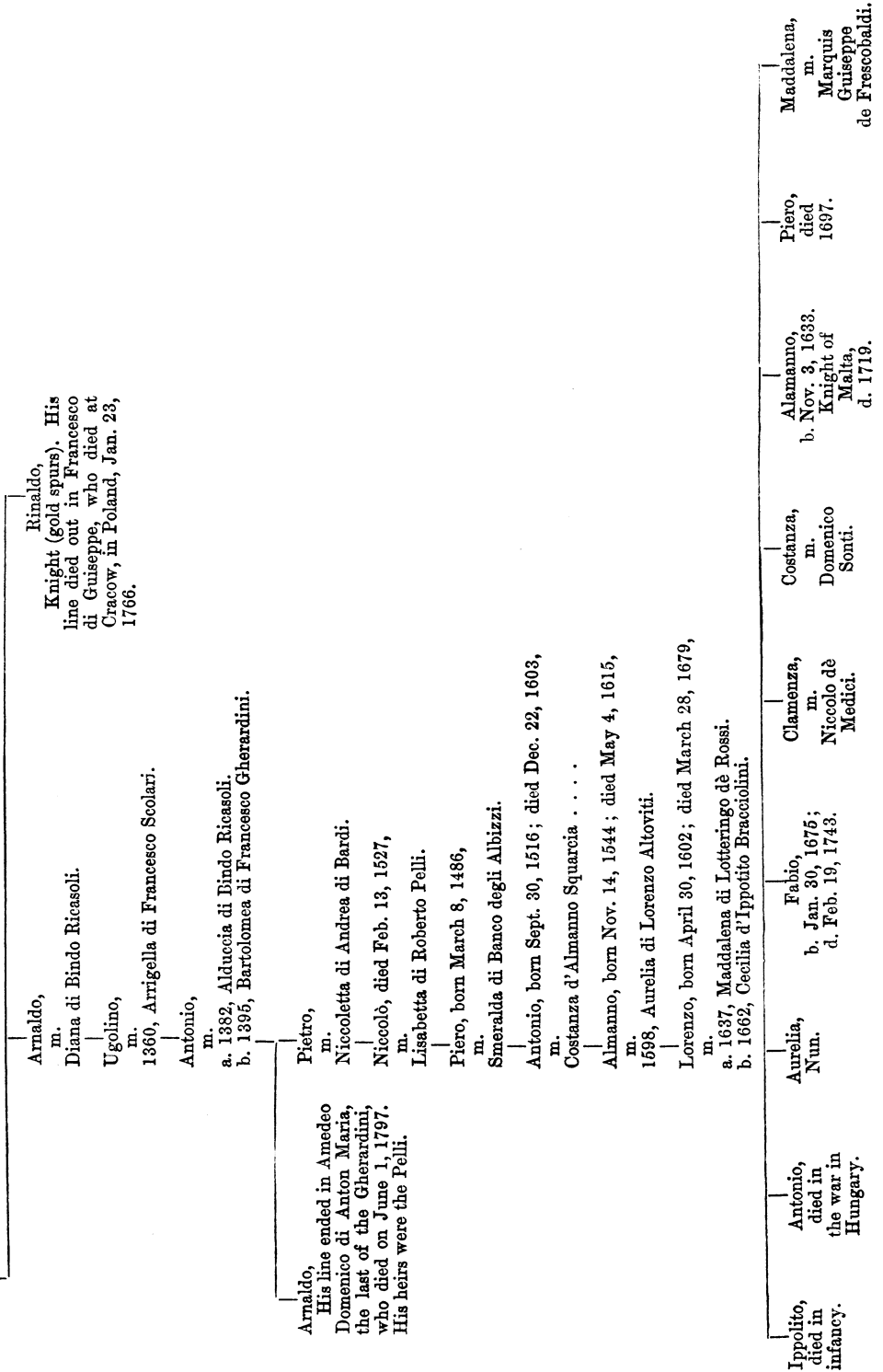
In 1655, Brother Dominick de Rosorio O'Daly, of the Dominican Order, published, in Lisbon, a short history entitled, 'Relatio Geraldinorum, ac persecutionis Hiberniæ in Lisbona.' He, however, like many other historians of families and cities, has been guilty of some errors in the statements made by him as to their origin. Still he mentions that Maurice, with the other brothers who conquered Ireland, came from Florence, and were of the Gherardini family of Florence, to whom he sent a copy of the above-named history. Without pledging ourselves to the statement that they drew their origin from Troy, and from the very blood of Æneas, we shall relate briefly what they did that was remarkable and conspicuous.

[Gamurrini's History of the Gherardini family ends as follows:]

In Ireland there was not a great or noble House but had intermarried with this distinguished family of the Fitzgeralds; and in Italy they were connected with a number of families, of which the indefatigable antiquary Pier Antonio dell Ancisa has given a list, extracted by him from the Office of Taxes in Florence.

PEDIGREE COMMUNICATED BY COUNT LUIGI PASSERINI.

Lotteringo, Knight (gold spur) : killed fighting against the people in 1303.



There follows a list of seventy noble families of Italy, thus finishing Gamurrini's History of the Gherardini. The noble house of the Gherardini of Florence being extinct, its representative would appear to be the present head of the Geraldines, his Grace the Duke of Leinster.

The following notes are intended to supplement Gamurrini's History:—

[Note by Count Passerini].¹ By the above genealogical tree, it will be seen that Gamurrini could not give a place to Fabio in his genealogy, because he (Fabio) was born in 1675, that is to say, four years after his volume was published. Besides, we in Italy do not place much reliance upon Gamurrini's genealogies, that writer being rather inaccurate, especially in the more ancient matters. With Fabius, son of Lorenzo, who died fighting in the Netherlands (A. D. 1743), the principal stock of the Gherardini was extinguished. His sister married to Marquis Joseph de Frescobaldi, inherited his estates, and now (1874) they are enjoyed by the celebrated Marquis Giuo Capponi, and by the brothers Ridolfi, sons of the late Marquis Cosmio.

With Francis, son of Joseph, who died in Krakovia, in Poland, on the 13th June, 1766, ended another branch of this family, and the inheritance passed to the Kewicke's nephews. Now the papers of this branch are possessed by the Counts Digerini-Nuti here in Florence. On the 1st April, 1792, died Amedeo, son of Anthony, the last of all the family, leaving his estates to Joseph Pelli, a distant relative of his. Now his estates and the papers are in the hands of the Chevalier Joseph Fabbrioni Pelli.

The Gerardini (not Gherardini) who lived for a time at Rome, Counts Palatine, are a very noble family of Umbria, more particularly of the town of Aurelia. They have nothing in common with the Gherardini of Florence. Their shield bears an olive branch, or tree, on an azure field.

The Gherardini of Milan, who removed thither from Verona, profess to be descended from the Florentine family; but this claim they have

¹ This note by Count Passerini refers to the pedigree by Gamurrini in the body of his History of the Gherardini family. This pedigree begins with Rainero, A. D. 910, and ends (see right-hand side of Gamurrini's pedigree, p. 255, *supra*) at top with Niccolo Lorenzo and four of his sons, Pietro, Spolito, Antonio, and Almanno, omitting, however, Lorenzo's son Fabio, who died in 1743.

This latter son, Fabio, is the personage who, Count Passerini says, Gamurrini could not include in his pedigree, inasmuch as Fabio was born in 1675, "that is to say, four years after Gamurrini's book

was published.

This Fabio, son of Lorenzo, son of Almanno, son of Antonio, son of Piero, son of Nicolo, son of Pietro, son of Antonio, son of Ugolino, son of Arnaldo or Noldo, son of Lotteringo, knight of gold spurs, who, Count Passerini says, died fighting against the people in 1303, while Gamurrini's pedigree says 1320.

Passerini says, however, that Gamurrini is not to be altogether relied on; and there is no doubt that Count Passerini's pedigree, given on the opposite page, is the more correct, as he bears the highest reputation as a genealogist in Italy.

never succeeded in establishing, still they bear the coat of arms. At the present day, the family dies out in a lady who married Duke Visconti of Aragon. They bore the title of Marquis, and were those known to the present Duke of Leinster.

Of the two young men who were lately in the noble guard, one (Guido) is dead, and the other (Guiseppe) living; but they belong to a Burgher family, originally from Pistoja.

They claimed to be connected with the ancient Gherardini of Florence, and to succeed to their rights; but their claim was set aside at law as unfounded."

[The following is a translated extract from a letter, in the possession of the Knight of Kerry, addressed in Italian to one of his ancestors, by Father Thomas Barry, of Florence.]

I am now very sorry that I did not show you the ancient Tower and *Loggia* (open gallery) of the Gherardini while you were here; because they are still in existence, at the foot of the old bridge, in the street which leads to the Grand Ducal Piazza, at the first corner, near the Tower of the Gerolami.

Signor Dei, who is the antiquarian to the Grand Duke, is, by my advice, disposed to attend to this matter on his return to Florence; but it would be too long to put in writing all that he knows of the Gherardini family, being a subject of a most interesting description, particularly now that the family here has become almost extinct; such as the nomination to a great number of churches, prebends, chapels; therefore if any one of the family has occasion to come over here, I should advise him to consult this antiquarian upon the subject, &c.

THOMAS BARRY,

Priest of the Congregation of Missions.

Florence, 3rd January, 1767.

[Respecting the palace of the Gherardini family, formerly standing in Florence, Count Passerini says:]

On the site of the existing buildings, now the property of the Marquis Bartolomei, situated at the corner of the Via Porta Santa Maria, and the Via Saint Apostoli SS. Borough, in Florence, formerly stood the loggia of the Gherardini family, ranked amongst us as of great nobility.

[Built into the outer wall of the corner house, and facing the Via Porta Santa Maria, is a white marble tablet—as appears on the accompanying engraving of the buildings mentioned—on which is inscribed, in Italian, a legend, of which the following is a translation:]

The ruins of the residence of the Gherardini were standing here until the middle of the year 1843, when, for the public safety, and improvement of the site, they were removed.

[Adjoining the buildings before referred to, still stands, as shown in the engraving annexed, the ancient Tower of the Gherardini (see p. 251, *supra*), remarkable yet for two Etruscan lions' heads, built into the outer wall fronting the Via Porta Santa Maria; and of one of these heads the accompanying engraving, taken from a photograph, is a faithful representation.

The following translated extract from a work entitled "Pianta Geometrica di Firenze, dell'Architetto Frederigo Fantozzi, 1843," Appendix, page 272, refers to the ancient palace of the Gherardini in Florence.]

Casa Masini, Borgo S.S. Apostoli. This house, that at present



TOWER OF THE GHERARDINI IN THE VIA PORTA SANTA MARIA, FLORENCE.



**ETRUSCAN LION'S HEAD, ON THE TOWER OF THE GHERARDINI,
In the Via Porta Santa Maria, Florence.**



ANCIENT SCULPTURED SHIELD OF THE ARMS OF THE GHERARDINI,
Over the door of the Church of S. Margherita at Montici, near Florence.

(1843) is being changed almost entirely to the most regular and modern architecture, from the designs, and under the direction of the author of this work, belonged in times past to many and various proprietors, and, amongst others, to the family Gherardini, who had here their Loggia and Tower which are on this occasion destroyed, because they threatened to fall.

The Loggia was 9 bracci [a braccio is 20 in.] long, by 5 bracci wide, including the thickness of the walls on the side of Borgo SS. Apostoli and Via Porta Santa Maria, as it was situated at the corner, and had exactly at the angle an octagonal pilaster, with a sort of Corinthian capital, on which was sculptured the arms of the Gherardini.

[By the courtesy of Count Passerini, we have been enabled to supply an engraving¹ of the Gherardini arms, which are similar to those given as the arms of the Gherardini in the Liber d'Oro, British Museum Library, MS. Department.

In the museum of the Bargello, in Florence, amongst a great number of seals of noble families of Tuscany, &c., are preserved three seals of members of the Gherardini family, bearing the following inscriptions.]

Sigilli Civili.—No. 1004.—S. Raineri.

„ 1069.—“ Sigillum Petri Secchi Rainerii.”

„ 868.—“ Di Gherardini Di Ghorò Gherardini.”

[Of the Church of Santa Margherita, at Montici, some two miles to the south of San Miniata, near Florence, Count Passerini says:]

At Santa Margherita, not far from the City of Florence, was anciently a palace of the Gherardini family, of which building the tower only now, in 1874, remains, serving as a belfry to the adjoining church.

In the seventeenth century the palace was converted into a modern building, and is now the residence of the priest of St. Margherita.

In 1348 the Gherardini were here assailed by the lords of Pazzano; the former defended the tower and themselves with valour, but some of them fell.

[Annexed is an engraving of an ancient stone tablet with the Gherardini arms thereon, built into the wall, over the principal entrance to the Church of S. Margherita, a Montici. In connexion with the Church of Santa Margherita, at Montici, the following extracts from “Notizie Istoriche dei Contorni di Firenze, raccolte dell' Abate Domenico Moreni, 1794, page 99,” will be found interesting.]

Amongst the parish churches of our environs which boast of a remote antiquity, is that of S. Margherita a Montici—called in many papers Montisti, and in others Montisce—from very early times under the patronage of the noble families Amidei and Gherardini, and now of Signorie Niccolini and Gherardini.

Of this church the first mention is found in the will of Gianni of Amideo, existing in the diplomatic archives of 18 August, 1229, drawn up by the notary Buoncambi Ruggerotti. ‘In domo ipsius testatoris posita in parochia S. Margherita de Montisce;’ and in the papers of the notary Giovanni Mangiadori, I find named under the date 1317 a certain Dato, rector of the same. Other rectors were Bartolommeo di Amideo Gherardini, 1435—1441. Giovanni di Francasco Gherardini, 1515.

¹ See Plate 248, *supra*.

Francesco del fu Carlo Gherardini, 1534; in 1570, 18th December the same, a piece of ground to erect a *campagna* chapel, for united prayer, by the side "of the Assunzione." Guido Serguidi, Vicar-General of the Archbishop Altovite, gave his decree to it, of which the original is in the diplomatic archives. Gio Batista Gherardini, 1634 and 1640. Niccolo di Francesco Gherardini, called Ginniore, an illustrious literary man, Nipota Cugine, of Urbano 8th. He was, in 1641, Canon of Florence Cathedral, Vicar-General of Fiesola, and Auditore of the *Mingiatura* of Tuscany. He was an intimate friend of Gallileo, of whom he wrote the life that you may read in No. 12 of the Appendix of Part I., page 62, of Targione's work called "Ingrandimenti della Fisica in Toscana." He died 4th May, 1678.

[Extracts from "Rissetti Digionario Geografico Fisico, Storico della Toscana," page 568.]

One of three bells destroyed in 1839 at Santa Margherita bore the date "1435, *al tempo di Messer Bartolommeo d Amideo Gherardini*," who continued to be rector in the year 1441.

The Church of Montici is noted in civil story as having served as shelter, and almost fortress, to two Gherardini, condemned in 1349 by the Podesta of Florence for the death of Firidolpi de Panzano, the vengeance for which homicide was described by a Canon Niccolo di Francesco *Seniore* de Gherardini, in a manuscript in the possession of the heir of the Gherardini.

[Extract from Rosselli, "Sepulchres of Florence," a manuscript in the Public National Library in Florence.]

In the church of Santo Stephano, Florence, in the chapel on the left-hand side of the high altar is a monument at the foot of the altar of the family Gherardini, recommended to the care of the Captains d'Orsan Michela, of whom there is the usual sign, o. s. m. In the cloister going down the stairs by which we descend from the church of St. Stafano into the cloister, on the right is an Arca, very ancient, of the Gherardini, with their arms, and the following inscription:—

✠ Hic iacet D. Lottaringus de Gherardini qui obiit in defensione Populi Florentini, anno 1303. die, 8 febr.

[An engraving of the inscription, from a photograph, is given facing this page. The inscription is as follows]:

✠ · ^o · MCCC · ^o · III · DIE ·
 8 · FEBRI · HI · IACET ·
 DNS · LOTTERING
 HVS · DI · GHERARD
 INIS · Q · OBIT ·
 I · DEFENSIONE ·
 PPLI · FLOREN.

✠ 1303, the eighth day of February. Here lies the Lord Lotterin-ghus di Gherardinis, who died in defence of the People of Florence.



INSCRIPTION OF LOTTERINGO DE GHERARDINI IN THE CLOISTER OF THE
CHURCH OF SAN. STEPHANO AT FLORENCE.

Amedei and Gherardini, from manuscript by Sigr. Niccolo Duraggini.

The family of the Amidei was of Roman descent, according to Malespini in his history, and from them are descended the Gherardini, as saith Cristofano Landini, in his commentary on Dante's poems, in these words, "In porta Santa Maria were the Amidei and Gherardini who were related." Thus there were the Amidei Lords of Castles in the environs of Florence, and within the city, of Towers with strong houses. They were also privileged by Ugo de Brandenburgh (lieutenant in Tuscany of the Emperor Otto 3rd), making of them knights "aureati," and giving to them his arms, red and white stripes. One of them was, in 1182, Bongianni, Consol of Florence; and another, in 1283, was Amideo, a saint, and one of the founders of the order of the "Servi." Besides the above, many knights and most worthy men were of their family; but because, in 1215, they were the origin of civil discord, for this reason the memory of them is lost. Therefore, says Dante in his *Commedia* :—

" La casa di che nacque il vostro fieto
Per lo guisto disdegno che v'ha morti
E posto fine al vostro viver lieto
Era onorata essa e suoi consorti."

Paradiso, Canto 16, line 135.

The house whence originated your tears, and by whose just indignation (against Buondelmonti), dissension and damage were brought in amongst you, putting an end to your merry life, is honored it and its connexions.

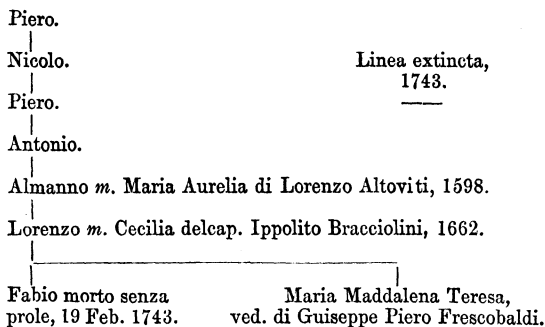
But the Gherardini being strong in the country (by reason of the many castles they had) held themselves more valiantly against the opposite party, and although they were exiled they did not lose courage, but went over to England, and became great lords in Ireland, as related by Landino in his Apologia in these words :—"There were, in England, three sons of . . . brothers together, Gherardo, Tommaso, and Manrizio, of the very old family of Gherardine of Florence, exiled on account of civil dissensions. They readily lent their assistance to the King of England in the subjugation of Ireland (an island not much less than England), and, after the conquest, were invested with the lordship of all the low country which was well populated; and now, in the present day, their descendants still hold possession of the same territory; the chiefs being the Count of Kildaria, and the Count of Decimone, not having changed either the arms or surnames of Gherardine of Florence; and, in the life of the author, not many years ago, messengers arrived with presents to acknowledge the relationship. The family has included Viceroy's of Ireland, Knights, Earls, and Lords in the said Kingdom of England and Ireland. These Gherardini being great in the republic, and possessors of many castles in Valdelsa and Valdigreve, in the Comity of Florence and within the City, of Loggias and Towers with very strong houses; and being, many of them, knights and men of repute, were not admitted to the government, being suspected by the people; because, as saith Villani in his history, "We find of this family thirty knights of the golden spur, of such importance, that once they raised amongst them a cavalcade of 300 armed men against the Pistoians, in the service of their country. It is true that some of them made themselves popular, changing their arms, calling themselves Gherardini of Via Maggio, and afterwards of the Rose ;

because Francesco Gherardini being a Signore of the Government in 1415, was named Gonfaloniere of Justice; and Pope Martino 5th, being then in Florence, invested him with the order of the Golden Spur, and gave to him the blessed golden rose, which it was usual to give to the great princes of Christendom. Thus they were called the Gherardini of the Rose, and these were honoured by four Gonfalonieri and thirty-four Priori. The first was Messer Jacopo de Gherardo, in 1283. But to return to the first Gherardini, they built so many churches and religious houses, that I know not if any family has equalled them in our country; for, in the present day, they have the patronage of twenty-five sacred places, and thus they have had of their kinsmen many worthy prelates; also, one of them was Andrea Cavaliere Governor of the State of the Pistoians, and Giovanni Cavaliere di San Stefano.

The arms of Amidei are like those of Count Ugo and the Gherardini the Great;¹ three bands—ermine,² white, and blue, straight across a red field; and the Gherardini made of the people have a golden lion rampant in blue field, sown with crosses of gold, and a golden rose³ in the paw of the lion.

[The following pedigree of the Gherardini family is taken from the Liber d'Oro, in the R. Archivio di Stato, Florence.]

Gherardini.—Famiglia Magnate.



[It will be observed that Mauricio, Gherardo, and Thommaso, sons of Gherardino, who, according to Gamurrini, left Florence and were the founders of the Geraldines of Ireland, correspond with Maurice and his sons Gerald and Thomas; but these, the son and grandsons of Gerald and Nesta, were never in Italy.]

¹ In 1292, when the Florentines were divided into two classes, "the Great" and "the People," the Amidei were "Great."

² The drawing of the arms which accompanies this description shows that instead of "ermine" should be read "vair,"

which agrees with the arms of the Gherardini in the Liber d'Oro.

³ The Gherardini have chapels and sepulchres in San Stefano; those called of the Rose have theirs in Santa M. Novella, in the cloisters by the side of the door in front of Piazza Vecchia.