

the nobles was soon filled by the richer citizens who formed the Popolo Grosso, while the less fortunate were termed the Popolo Minuto. The latter, of course, were infinitely the more numerous.

Once consolidated, the first actions of the outwardly democratic and commercial Commune of Florence was an unprovoked aggression against the nearby fortress and community of Fiesole, which was destroyed in 1125, an act which clearly revealed the future aspirations of the city.

Other signs within the city suggested that a strong differentiation by wealth, power, and interest, was taking place among the citizens.

THE GUILDS.—All citizens were incorporated into guilds or corporations, according to their occupation. Gradually, the more important guilds separated themselves from the lesser trade groups. Within the guild, rule was largely in the hands of the master craftsman, a rule which worked well so long as most members could hope ultimately to become masters.

The increased wealth of the city and the operations of successful masters in eliminating smaller ones led inevitably to the creation of classes who were economically dependent on the few—the real cause of the Ciompi disturbances in 1378. Individual guilds endeavoured to restrict the activities of others. One of the best instances of this was when the shoemakers successfully confined the cobblers to the repairs of old footwear. (Union restrictions are nothing new and have operated since at least the Vth Century B.C.).

The more important guilds—Arti Maggiori—included banking, silk weaving, woollen manufacturing, lawyers, bakers, etc. and had the major say in the city's affairs, but the leaders of the Arti Minori, or lesser trades, were not excluded from the general councils of the city even although their vote often carried less weight.

XIIIth CENTURY—FACTIONAL DISTURBANCES. Soon after the turn of the XIIIth Century, the rivalry between the families of Buondelmonti and Amedi commenced the long record of civil strife and personal intrigue for control of the administration. It all started when a Buondelmonti, having promised to marry an Amedi, with whom he had perhaps been intimate, changed his mind and married a Donati. The Amedi killed the offender.

The feud started and the now threatened Amedi formed a league with the Uberti, and soon most families of note found it wise to ally themselves with one or other cause. At first it took the form of a struggle for the municipal offices. Later powerful outside interests, led by Frederick II, introduced a radical change. A force of 1600 of the Emperor's cavalry, summoned through Uberti's influence, persuaded the Buondelmonti and their close supporters to flee the city in 1248. From that moment the defeated party embraced the Guelph cause, and their successful opponents became Ghibellines.

On the death of Frederick II, two years later, the citizens were powerful enough to obtain a new city constitution, known as Primo Popolo. This again excluded from office all the nobility. Soon, however, it recalled the exiled factions and with them the feuds.

Meanwhile the city was divided into six wards, or Sestieri, and each selected two representatives who were known as the Anziani—the *ancients* or the *Old Men*. It was about this time that the building now known as the Bargello and then as the Palazzo del Podesta was erected. Although commenced in 1255, it was not finished until about 1367. It was originally intended for the use by outsiders—of the Anziani.

In addition to this committee of 12, there were two offices filled by outsiders—the *Cap-tain of the People*,

