

and the *Podesta*, who carried out the principal executive and legal functions.

The system was short-lived. The Guelph majority chased the Ghibellines from the city, and they took refuge in Siena. In 1260, two years after their banishment, they received powerful support from King Manfred and crushed the Florentines in the Battle of Monteperti. The defeated Guelph faction fled the city in advance of the victors' arrival.

Thus began the alternating struggle for power which continued in varying forms until the Medici family succeeded in establishing what amounted to a dynasty in the XVth Century. In 1280, an attempt was made to form a coalition council of the two parties. But it was apparent that in spite of successive exiles, peace could not be obtained, and in 1282, a second constitution was created.

The Secondo Popolo passed more extreme legislation to exclude the noble element from city office. It also created

a powerful city police and wealthy citizen's magistracy under a Gonfaloniere of Justice. Registration in one or other of the city's guilds was made a compulsory condition for holding citizenship and much of the legislation had parallels familiar to all in modern times.

About this time, the city of Pisa was disastrously defeated by Genoa at Meloria. This had obvious effects on the people of Florence. In spite of their internal disturbances the citizens were prompt to seize the advantage from their rival's discomfiture.

Florence was enabled to gain a number of strong points and to threaten Lucca. In 1289, the Florentines won a great victory over Arezzo after which a peace was finally arranged with Pisa on the condition that Pisa recalled her exiled Guelphs and promised never to appoint as *Podesta* anyone who was not from a city friendly to Florence. All these precautions to maintain a one-party system and to avoid factions came to nought.



Bas - relief from Campanile.