

# CHURCHES AND GUILD HALLS

There are, of course, many of these and some have already been mentioned. None are without interest, but space forbids the mention of more than a few.

*The Frari.* S. Maria Gloriosa dei Frari, where are the tombs of Titian and Canova, is the church of the Franciscans. It stands in the very middle of Venice, opposite the Scuola di S. Rocco. It has some of the best of Titian's work and a fine Bellini altarpiece, in the sacristy. But the Frari, like S. Giovanni e Paolo, is chiefly famous for its tombs, for the two of them house most of Venice's illustrious dead, and here is half the history of Venice in stone. It is a large and pleasant church with an attractive beamed roof and a tall and well-proportioned campanile that is an integral part of the building and not an accidental extra as are so many.



*The Frari*

*S. Giovanni E Paolo* (S. Zanipolo) is far to the east, across the Grand Canal. It is worth while to go to it by gondola from the Club for the canals that lead to it from the Molo are full of interest, and you will see many palaces smaller but no less beautiful than the great buildings on the Grand Canal. Outside the church is the famous equestrian statue of Bartolommeo Colleoni, the celebrated fifteenth century *condottiere*, who became Captain-General of the Venetian army, and died in 1475. The monument, generally deemed the finest equestrian statue in the world, was begun by Verrocchio and finished after his death by Leopardi. This church is the Dominican Church as the Frari is the Franciscan, and both are large and airy and Gothic. Here are buried two Bellinis, and forty-six Doges. Here lies Sebastian Venier, the hero of the Battle of Lepanto in 1571, and here is a monument to Bragadine whom the Turks flayed alive, afterwards stuffing the skin with straw and taking it back to Constantinople as a trophy.

*The Redentore*, on La Giudecca, the Plague Church, is by Palladio, and like much of his work, is rather cold and unappealing, though it owns a good and striking Tintoretto, his *Descent from the Cross*.

*S. Maria dei Miracoli* is a church for those who like them little. It lies about 200 yards west of S. Giovanni e Paolo, and they can be visited together. A treasure of Byzantine Renaissance architecture, it has the most delightful ornamentation and is unique in its interior, which is untroubled by columns. The Lombardi were the architects of this pleasant place.