

some parts is thus of advantage to the student, as it reveals the process of the work. True harmony of tones and a correct appreciation of the laws of distance, a fair knowledge of relief and a proper subordination of fine ornaments to the pictures must also be conceded to the artists of Cefalu. In the flesh lights nature was closely imitated. In the shadows verde prevailed. As a final characteristic, it might be noticed that the mosaists had become technically perfect in the close jointing of the cubes.<sup>1</sup>

Cotemporary with the Cefalu mosaics but inferior to them, either because originally intrusted to inferior hands, or because restoring has impaired their beauty, are those of the Palatine Chapel at Palermo built in 1132<sup>2</sup> by Roger king of Sicily and consecrated in 1140.<sup>3</sup> The mosaics finished after the consecration, partly in 1143,<sup>4</sup> and partly later, filled the sanctuary, the cupola of the transept and the walls of the nave and aisles. Scenes from the life of S. Peter and S. Paul in the side aisles, figures of saints or prophets above the arches of the nave and in the left transept<sup>5</sup> rivalled the most perfect ones of Cefalu. The Saviour in benediction between S.S. Peter and Paul, above the marble throne at the bottom of the nave, were less perfect in type and form and betrayed a later and feebler art. The same might be said of the Saviour and angels in the cupola.<sup>6</sup> Rich ornaments of animals and

<sup>1</sup> The backgrounds of these apsis mosaics are grey. Many of the outlines are reinforced with colour, and evidently by the original mosaists.

<sup>2</sup> Pirri, Tab. Reg. cap. Palat. in Lo Faso ubi sup. p. 74.

<sup>3</sup> The completion of the building in this year is proved by the following mutilated record cited from the archives of Palermo by Abate Buscemi in Giornale Ecc. p. la Sicilia Vol. I.

III K. Ma . . . odem die dedi-  
. . . tio ecc<sup>o</sup> S. Petri  
. . . pellæ Regiæ

. . . panormitanæ  
. . . acta fuit tempore  
. . . oriosi et magni  
. . . regis Rogerii  
. . . nno dominice  
. . . ncar nationis M<sup>o</sup>C<sup>o</sup>X<sup>o</sup>L.

The church was consecrated on the day of its completion Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> An inscription in the cupola proves that some of the mosaics were finished in that year. See Lo Faso ub. sup. p. 27.

<sup>5</sup> S.S. Gregory, Sorgius, Basil, John the Isaurian and another.

<sup>6</sup> These mosaics have been damaged by many successive repairs.