

were repeated by the ruder hand of Giunta, who in his turn yielded precedence to Cimabue. A whole school of artists then formed itself in the sanctuary. Out of this emerged Giotto, and others, who carried Florentine art to the ends of Italy, whilst in competition with them the school of Sienna lent the talents of Simone and Lorenzetti to contend for the palm of excellence. Assisi thus became equally famous in a religious and pictorial sense, and is now visited by the curious from all parts of Europe with little less frequency than, of old, by the pilgrims who came for the "pardon" of S. Francis. In the lower church, whose aisle had been painted in the early part of the century, Cimabue probably adorned the South transept.<sup>1</sup> Amongst the works of Giotto on the West-side of this portion of the edifice is one of an earlier date representing a colossal Virgin and child between four angels. Placed above the altar of the Conception, and much damaged by repainting, it reveals the manner of Cimabue. Its position amongst the frescos of Giotto indicates that it existed previous to his time, and was thought worthy of preservation when the rest were sacrificed to afford room for a more talented painter. To Giotto indeed may well be ascribed that reverence for the works of his master, which would induce him, like Raphael, to spare a memento of one who had trained him in the path of art. Equally old and remarkable is a large figure of St. Francis, close to that of the Virgin and child.

In the upper church of Assisi however, Cimabue may have been also employed, but not alone. It is not possible to contemplate the series of works which decorate its transepts, choir, aisles, and vaulted ceilings, without coming to the conviction that here lies concealed the history of early Florentine art, that years elapsed before the whole of the space was decorated; and that at least two generations of artists succeeded each other there. Nothing can

<sup>1</sup> Vas. Vol. I. p. 223. assigns those of the ceilings, to Cimabue, not only the aisle paintings, but