

CHAPTER XI.

GIOTTO AND HIS COTEMPORARIES AT NAPLES.

Giotto had been commissioned at Florence, in 1328,¹ to paint in the Palazzo dei Signori the portrait of Charles of Calabria kneeling before the Virgin.² This prince who was the son of Robert of Naples, had been elected ruler of Florence in 1326, and retired from his office at the close of 1327. He seems to have made his father acquainted with the fame of Giotto; and Robert, in 1330,³ invited the artist to Naples to decorate some of the numerous edifices which then adorned that city.⁴

¹ Vasari relates as occurring in 1322, events which, had they been as he states, must have taken place in 1328. He says that Giotto visited Lucca to paint in S. Martin, for Castruccio, a Virgin and saints adored by a Pope and an Emperor. (Vasari, Vol. I. p. 324.) The altarpiece at all events exists no longer, though Rosini (Stor. Vol. II. p. 64) pretends to have seen it: "Many believed, adds the Arétine, that the pontiff and Emperor were Frederic of Bavaria and Nicolas the Vth." Louis, not Frederick of Bavaria was crowned in Italy when Nicolas V. ascended the papal throne, and the date of this is 1328 not 1322. But in 1328 Giotto was in Florence.

² Vasari. Vol. III. p. 274. Vita di Michelozzo Michelozzi. The portrait has been lost.

³ As the record is rare, here it is in full:

1330. January 20. Neapoli. Ro-

bertus rex Joctum (vulgo dic. Giotto), &c. Reg. Rob. 1329 A p. 20.

Robertus, &c. universis, &c. Quos morum probitas approbat et virtus discretiva commendat, familie nostre libenter consorcio aggregamus. Sane, attendentes quod Magister Joctus de Florentia pictor familiaris et fidelis noster, fulcitur providis actibus et exercitatur servitiis fructuosis, ipsum in familiarem nostrum recipimus, et de nostro hospicio retinemus, volentes, ut illis honoribus et privilegiis potiatur et gaudeat, quibus familiares alii potiuntur, recepto provide solito juramento. In cujus rei testimonium presentes exinde fieri et pendent majestatis nostre sigillo, jussimus communiri. Datum Neapoli, anno Domini MCCCXXX die XX^o Januarii XIII Ind. regn^m nost^m XXI^o. Vide Schulz. Denkmäler. ub. sup. Vol. 4. p. 76.

⁴ On his way to Naples, says Vasari in the life of Agostino and