

CHAPTER XXVII.

FRATE GIOVANNI DA FIESOLE OR THE ANGELICO.

Vicchio, a village nestling under the walls of a castle in the province of Mugello,¹ witnessed the birth of two brothers who, in the same year 1407, were admitted novices into the convent of S. Domenico of Fiesole. One of them was christened Guido.² Both were the sons of one Peter, respecting whom all other particulars are unknown, and they had doubtless been sent, like most youths, to find sustenance and choose an occupation in the capital. The period when this occurred is not certain; but Guido entered the world in 1387,³ and being twenty years of age when he joined the Dominican order, may be supposed to have already struck the path which he was to follow in after life. In religion he took the name of Giovanni, and is so called in the following passage of the chronicle of S. Domenico of Fiesole.

“1407. Brother Joannes Petri de Mugello of Vicchio, who excelled as a painter, and adorned many tables and walls in divers places, accepts the habit of a clerk in this convent . . . and in the following year professed.”⁴

¹ Marchese upbraids the great Montalembert for saying that Fra Giovanni was born in Mugello, a small village near Florence. (Vol. I. p. 201.) See Montalembert's *Du Vandalisme et du Catholicisme dans l'art*. Vicchio is between Dicomano and Borgo S. Lorenzo, not far from Ves-

² Vas. Vol. IV. p. 25. See also a record in Baldinucci. ub.

sup. Vol. V. p. 160. Vasari says in error, that Guido was born at Fiesole. Vol. IV. p. 25.

³ Vas. Vol. IV. p. 39. G. M. Brocchi, *Descriz. della Provincia del Mugello*, Flor. 1748. p. 14 says, Fra Giovanni was born in 1390. Vide Marchese, ub. sup. Vol. I. p. 201.

⁴ Cronica conv. S. Dominici de Fesulis. Fol. 97 a tergo, in Marchese (ub. sup. Vol. I. p. 207).