

A passage to the same effect, immediately after the foregoing, records the admission of Guido's brother into the order as "Frater Benedictus,"¹ and justifies the belief that he was not, as Vasari asserts, the elder, but the younger of the two.²

It has been doubted whether, previous to entering the order at Fiesole, Guido, or as he may hereafter be more fitly called, Fra Giovanni, had learnt the rudiments of his art. Vasari seemed to be of opinion that he began in the monkish school of miniature,³ like Benedetto, adding nevertheless that he might with the utmost convenience have chosen the career of a lay-man, and have earned whatever he pleased in a profession which as a youth he practised with consummate skill.⁴ It must be remembered that Fiesole is close to Florence; that youths were apprenticed in their tenderest years, and, above all, that Fra Giovanni, from the first, revealed his connection with the school of Masolino. His earliest works are, however, to be found at Cortona, not in Florence or at Fiesole. But this only corroborates, does not contradict other facts known respecting the convent of S. Domenico of Fiesole.

That edifice was founded in 1406 by the Beato Giovanni di Domenico Bacchini, with the avowed intention of restoring the strictest observance of cloister life at a time when it had lost much of its rigidity.⁵ There, in

To father Marchese the thanks of scholars and lovers of art are due for the care with which he has gathered all facts referring to the lives of Dominican artists.

¹ Marchese, *ub. sup.*

² Vas. Vol. IV. p. 26.

³ *Ibid.* Vol. IV. p. 25. This opinion is shared by Marchese. Vol. I. p. 203. Lanzi, *ub. sup.* Vol. I. p. 77, and Rosini. Vol. II. part II. p. 254. But Marchese admits that no miniatures of Fra Giovanni exist. Vol. I. p. 159.

⁴ According to Vasari also, the first works of Fra Giov. were in

the Certosa at Florence, where he painted in the choir an altarpiece of the Virgin and child between S.S. Lawrence, Mary Magdalen, Zanobi and Benedict, with a predella containing scenes from the lives of those saints. This picture and two others in the transept; the coronation of the Virgin and a Madonna between two saints, are not known to exist. Vas. Vol. IV. p.p. 25. 26.

⁵ Richa, *Chiese. ub. sup.* Vol. VII. p. 118. Marchese. Vol. I. p. 206. The founders of the convent of Fiesole came from Cortona.