

of Lucca, who were, in generations to come, not only there but in foreign lands, to prove themselves an eminently stirring race, by public services, literary, professional, civil, military, and diplomatic, in eminent positions in State and Church, almost always on the side of liberty and truth.

Passing over the son of the Decemvir of 1370, Dr. Nicolò Diodati, who died in 1442, we come to a generation of fifteen children of his, by marriage with Francesca di Poggio, among whom the third by birth, named Michele, born in 1410, who married Caterina Buonvisi, was a professor in Padua and Pisa—probably of medicine—and afterwards a physician in Lucca, where he was pensioned on 300 livres by the city; and another, Antonio, born in 1416, held the office of Ancient, and was Gonfalonier in 1461. Whether it was by influences favorable to liberty, or adverse, that these members of the family were thus distinguished, cannot be certainly told; we know, however, that for about thirty years, in the beginning of the 15th century, Lucca was under a usurper, Paolo Guinigi; and the republics of Italy, in general, during that century, were becoming more and more aristocratic in spirit, from the fact that citizenship in them, not being a gift to be bestowed upon new comers, was handed down as a privilege belonging to certain families; while official position must of course have become, still more, the prerogative of a favored class.³

The race seems to have been continued only through Alessandro, son of the Professor Michele, born in 1459; his son Geronimo, born in 1465, who was an eminent literary man, and nine times Ancient, having died childless, and no descendants of his third son, Antonio, who was three times Ancient and four times Gonfalonier,