

COMMENTS UPON PISA

A.D.
1594.

2 miles long. After I went 3 miles through fenny ground, often overflowed with the River Arno, and came to Pisa. Arno is a little River falling from the Apenine Mountaines neere Florence, through which City it runs, and so passeth through a most pleasant and fruitful Plaine to Pisa, through which Citie it also runs; and by reason of the narrow bed, and the neere Mountaine of Pisa, is subject to overflow upon any great raine, so as with great hurt it drowneth the fields of Pisa, and those that lie from thence to the Sea. Pisa of old famous for navigation, was made free by the Emperor Charles the fourth, about the yeere 1369. But long after it was the second time sold to the Florentines by Galeacius Vicount of Millan. Then they practised with the French to recover their liberty, when Charles the eight passed that way to conquer Naples, til they were the third time subdued by the Florentines; since which time the family of Medici invaded the liberty of Florence, together with that of Pisa, under the title of Great Duke of Florence, which they hold to this day. But when Pisa was thus brought in subjection to Florence, many of the chiefe Citizens chose rather to live at Venice, and other places, in perpetual banishment with their posterity, then to be subject to the Florentines. Pisa was of old called Alpheo, of the builders comming from their dwellings neere Alpheus a River in Greece. The brook Arno runs from the East to the west through Pisa, seated in a Plaine, and towards the North-West by North is a Gate, and a most faire Cathedral Church, paved with Marble curiously wrought, & having a most faire pulpit. In which Church, neere the high Alter, is the Sepulcher of the Emperor Henrie the seventh, whom Platina and many German Writers affirme, to have been poisoned by a wicked Monk of the Order of the Predicants, at the Communion of our blessed Lords Supper. Upon this monument these words are written in Latin.

Pisa.

*Pisa subject to
Florence.*

*The
Cathedral
Church.*

In this tombe not to be dispised, are contained the bones of Henry the seventh, Count of Luceburg, and after

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the seventh Emperour of that name, which the second yeere after his death; namely 1315. the twenty five day of the Sextiles, &c. were brought to Pisa, and with great honour of funerall laid in this Church, where they remaine to this day.

The leaning steeple.

The steeple is neere the Church but severed from it, which seemes to threaten the falling from the top to the bottome, but that is done by the great Art of the workemen, deceiving the eye; for it is as strongly built as the Church. I ascended the same by two hundred and forty staires of marble, in which ascent it hath seven galleries on the

The Campo Santo.

out side. Not farre thence is a yard used for common buriall, called the holy field, vulgarly Campo Santo. In which the Emperour Fredericke Barbarossa, returning from Hierusalem, did lay great store of that earth, which he had used for ballast of his ships; and they say, that dead bodies laid there, doe consume in a most short time. This yard is compassed with a building all of Marble, which lies open like a Cloyster, (we call it a terras) and the same is covered with lead very sumptuously, having in bredth 56 pillars, and in length 189. each distant from the other thirteene walking paces. So as (in my opinion) this yard for buriall is much more stately, then that most faire yard for the same purpose, which I formerly discribed at Leipzig in Germany, called in Dutch Gotsaker. In this place is a sepulcher stately built of marble of divers colors, with this inscription in Latin;

Pope Gregory the thirteenth, borne at Bologna, commanded this to be made, to the most worthy civill Lawyer John Buon' Campagno, his brother by the Fathers side, deceased in the yeere 1544. at Pisa, where he was chiefe Professour of that Law.

[I. ii. 146.] Here I did see another sepulcher with this inscription in Latin; To Mathew Curtius Physitian. Duke Cosmo made this at his owne charge, in the yeere 1544.

At the West corner of the City, is the Armory, vulgarly called L' Arsenalo, where they build and keepe the Dukes

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The Duke's Gallies.

Gallies, which were there at this time no more then seven in number; for the Duke used to send out in summer time some two or three Gallies, (and seldome any more) to spoile the Turkes, which he might doe more boldly, because the Florentines have no cause to feare the Turkes, since they use no traffick by sea, but send out their silkes and other commodities by strange ships, and onely take care to entertaine those Merchants well, who bring them corne and victuals by sea. At the same West corner of the City, is a bridge of bricke over the River Arno, built high in the midst, with three Arches, under which the boates passe. And towards the East there be three other like bridges. Neere the first bridge is another gate of the City, leading towards the sea, and neere the same, is the most sweete walke, that ever I beheld. It hath in bredth some five rowes of trees, on each side, and a like distance of greene grasse betweene those trees, but it reacheth in length many miles; and out of the River Arno are drawne two ditches, which runne all the length of it, one upon each side: so as the Citizens in summer time, use to take boat in Arno, at their doores, with a basket of victuals; and so many Families of them, passing by the ditches on both sides the walke, sit downe a good distance the one from the other, and there sup and converse with great pleasure. On the South side of the City a strong Fort lies neere the wall, and there is the third gate of the City. In the midst of the City upon the banke of Arno, is the Pallace of the Duke of Florence, and there is a statua erected to Ferdinando the Duke then living, who much favoured this City, in which he was borne. Not farre thence is a little, but most faire Chappell, all of marble, built in the forme of a Thorne, vulgarly called La Capella Jesu di Spina. The pleasant seat of the City, the curtesie of the Citizens, and my desire to converse with the Professors of the University, made me spend some daies in this City, where I paid by the day for my chamber and bed three creitzers, and my Host was tied to buy and dresse such meat for me

A most sweete walke.

Charges at Pisa.

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as I desired, wherein I spent some three Giulii by the day, and if I had purposed to stay long, I might have lived well at a more easie rate.

Chap. III.

Of my journey to Ligorno, my returne to Florence, and to Sienna, and the description of these Cities. Of my journey by Land to Lirigi (in which againe I passed by Lucca and Pisa,) and by sea to Genoa, with the discription of that City, and my journey by Land to Pavia, to Milano, to Cremona, and to Mantoua, with the discription of the Cities, and of my returne to Padoua.



Hired a horse for three Giulii from Pisa to Ligorna, an Haven of this state, which Ptolomy of old called Liburnum, (of which name there is another Haven betweene Istria and Dalmatia), and Cicero called Labro. Not farre from Pisa I passed by boat the brooke Serpe, running from Lucca; and paid two creitzers for passing my horse, and one for my selfe. Then for three miles I rode upon a paved way, and thirteene miles more through a plaine of pasture, full of many woods and Lakes, which lakes and fenny grounds, lying neere Pisa, make the aire unwholsome some moneths of the yeere, and the Citizens much subject to sickenes.

Ligorno.

So after sixteene miles riding, I came to Ligorno, which was of old fortified by the Pisans, and those fortifications were demolished by the Genoesi, in the yeere 1297. but peace being made betweene them, this place returned under the command of the Pisans, and they being after subdued by the Florentines, this place came also into their hands; and when the French King Charles the eight, in the yeere 1494. restored the Pisans to liberty, this