

where the Arno winds along, flowing beneath the strong arched bridges from which so many of the historic dead have looked down to see an allegory of life in the hurrying waters. Below lies Florence, Florence the beautiful, gathered round the Duomo of Santa Maria and Giotto's airy tower.

On our own great poet, Milton, the beauty of the scene has left its impress, and the memories still linger in his mighty line, of nights when he watched the moon

“Whose orb, through optic glass, the Tuscan artist views  
At evening from the top of Fiesole  
Or in Valdarno”

Shortly after Angelico took the vows, he and his brethren were forced to leave their peaceful retreat and take refuge at Foligno. This was a consequence of their having espoused the weaker side in a contest between three rival popes.

In this asylum also the surroundings must have been in harmony with the spirit of the artist. From the windows of his cell he might note Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis, dark against the sky, set on a swelling mount which sloped against the brown and rugged moor. From hillsides, far off, the old wall-encircled villages and towns looked out from the shadows of the olive trees, while near at hand was the smiling, gracious landscape which figures as a background to the pining saints of the Umbrian artists.

This change of abode to Foligno, was probably the outward circumstance of the greatest importance, which happened in the early life of the painter. His artistic gifts were at once recognized and appreciated in his order, and it is evident, from the great number of pictures which he produced, that he must have devoted all his time to art. His reputation as an artist and a man soon spread over Tuscany and Italy. In 1436, when he was about fifty years old, the convent of San Marco was built in Florence, much by the assistance of Casimo de Medici, who loved the Dominicans, and the brotherhood moved from Fiesole to occupy it. The work of its decoration