

ity into his work. All these forces in a greater or less degree were beginning to act. Massaccio, born almost fourteen years later than Angelico, marks the epoch. The master and fathers in art of Massaccio were stalwart citizens, who painted in the Church as laymen, and whose lives led to the bold, dignified naturalism of the advance to which Massaccio gave such noble guidance. The influences which were more instrumental in the formation of Angelico's tastes, were those found more directly within the Church itself.

The artistic tastes of the men in the various religious orders, were, for the most part, devoted to the illumination of the gospels and the service books. The care and tender elaboration lavished upon such works was very great. The very atmosphere in which they were produced did much to give them, however archaic, a special character of tenderness and refinement. Such influences as these were strongly at work in the formation of Angelico's artistic taste, and it is to the missal painters, whose patient hands had caressed the smooth parchment of ponderous folios into quaint loveliness, that we must trace in great part his artistic descent. The influence of Giotto's work, and that of Lorenzo de Monaco and other fresco painters, of course, were also strong factors in the development of his style.

Art in the monasteries had been, in so far as was possible, reduced to regular rules, and there were books of instruction in use in the various brotherhoods, dealing not only with the technical procedure, but treating also of the conception of religious subjects, and what may be called their theological and literary aspects.

The convent which Angelico entered was situated in Fiesole. Who that has ever been there can forget the beauty of the surroundings. From its lofty summit we look over rough crags near at hand across the peaceful landscape, studded with gray olive trees, to the far away blue of the mountain sweep of higher lands, where, on the Appenines, the little hill towns lie companioned by the clouds. In the wide valley, sheer cut through gateways of the hills, the light mists rise,