

airial employments, and have endeavored to partly clear up the mystery of his death.

FAMILY OF VERRAZANO.

The Verrazano family belonged to Florence, and our navigator, according to Giuseppi Pelli,* was the son of Pietro Andrea and Fiametta Capelli. From the letter of Annibale Caro, quoted by Tiraboschi,† we learn that he had a brother, probably Hieronimus or Jerome, who composed the map before us. According to Prof. Geo. W. Greene, the Cavaliere Andrea, the last one of the family died at Florence in 1819.

Pelli supposes that Giovanni de Verrazano was born after 1480. This date, together with the fact that he had resided several years in Cairo and Syria,‡ form the substance of all that can be ascertained about him in Italy. Engaged in the trade of spices, silks and the precious commodities of the east, which were slowly brought, after numerous barter, to the ports of the eastern Mediterranean, where vessels from the trading cities of Italy awaited them, our navigator learned what a gain it would be, if these necessary commodities could be procured by a direct sea voyage to the Moluccas.

At what time he became a seafarer and on what seas he sailed previous to the year 1521, we have no information, unless we accept the vague indications contained in Carli's letter. The late Buckingham Smith ascertained, from Portuguese authorities, that he was in the East Indies in 1517, probably making the voyage in a Portuguese vessel. Possibly, after an experience of some years in the Mediterranean, the cradle of European nautical enterprise, he may have entered the service of Spain, who at that time was drawing soldiers and sailors from every part of Europe, and in her service must have

* See note, *Pelli, Elogio de Verrazano.*

† See note, *Caro.*

‡ See note, *Carli's letter.*