

When Charlemagne overturned the dominion of the Lombards, and sent their king a prisoner to France, the Venetian state cultivated the friendship of that great monarch, and obtained a confirmation of all their treaties with the Lombards, by which, among other things, the limits between the two states were ascertained.

In the wars with the eastern empire, and in those of more modern date, between France and Austria, the constant object of the Venetians was to avoid embroiling themselves with either party; and when at length they began to excite the jealousy of the other states of Europe, they had acquired strength and revenues sufficient to resist, or political influence to divert the storm.

The republic of Venice, says Dr. Moore, in its various periods of increase, of meridian splendor, and of declension, has already existed for a longer time than any other of which history makes mention. The Venetians themselves assert, that this duration is owing to the excellent materials of which their government has been composed, by which, they imagine, it has been brought to the greatest possible degree of perfection.

At first it was purely democratical; but after the state became in some measure rich and populous, a more vigorous constitution was found necessary, and Paul Luc Anafeste was elected duke, or doge, in 697. This office has been continued to the present time, with partial interruptions and modifications. Several tribunals, however, have been added to balance his power; and such is the jealousy of this government, that all private intercourse is of necessity suspended, and one acts as a spy on another. The people do not even possess the shadow of power; a tyrannical aristocracy has

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