

was but two years younger than Michael Angelo, having been born at Capo del Cadore in 1477. Tradition has it that when very young he made attempts at painting, using the juice of flowers. He was only nine when sent by his parents to Venice to study art. For a time he was with Gentile Bellini, but left him to study with the more eminent brother, Gian. On the death of his master, being then thirty-five years old, he was commissioned by the Venetians to continue the works in the great Council Hall, which Gian Bellini had left unfinished.*

*The following, discovered by Rawdon Brown in the archives of Venice, is the petition of Titian when he offered his services to the Venetian Senate:

"Most Illustrious Council of Ten; Most Serene Prince and Most Excellent Lords: I, Tician of Serviete de Cadore, having from my boyhood upwards set myself to learn the art of painting, not so much from cupidity of gain as for the sake of endeavoring to acquire some little fame, and of being ranked among those who now profess the same art. And although heretofore, and likewise at this present, I have been earnestly requested by the Pope and other Potentates to go and serve them, nevertheless being anxious as your Serenity's most faithful subject, for such I am, to leave some memorial in this famous city; my determination is, should the Signory approve, to undertake, so long as I live, to come and paint in the Grand Council with my whole soul and ability; commencing, provided your Serenity think of it, with the battle-piece on the side towards the 'Piazza,' that being the most difficult; nor down to this time has anyone chosen to assume so hard a task. I, Most Excellent Lords, should be better pleased to receive as recompense for the work to be done by