The Laurentian Text (Cod. Laurent. XXIX, 8) of Dante's Letter to a Friend in Florence (Epist. IX), with Emended Text and Translation

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THE LAURENTIAN TEXT (*COD. LAURENT.*
XXIX, 8) OF DANTE'S LETTER TO A FRIEND
IN FLORENCE (*EPIST. IX*),

WITH EMENDED TEXT AND TRANSLATION.

DANTE's letter to a Friend in Florence (*Epist. ix* in the *Oxford Dante*) has been preserved in one MS. only, in the Laurentian Library at Florence (XXIX, 8), which contains also Dante's letter to the Italian Cardinals (*Epist. viii*), and that to a Pistojan exile, commonly identified with Cino da Pistoja (*Epist. iv*), of neither of which is any other MS. known; as well as the letter of Frate Ilario to Uguccone della Faggiuola, and the Latin poetical correspondence between Dante and Giovanni del Virgilio. This MS. belonged to Boccaccio, and the portion containing the three letters of Dante, and the other pieces above mentioned, is in his handwriting; it was executed probably about the year 1348¹.

This letter, which was written by Dante probably in 1315, to a correspondent who has been conjectured to be his brother-in-law, Teruccio Donati², scornfully rejecting the offer of a return to Florence under certain degrading conditions, was utilised by Boccaccio in his *Vita di Dante*. In the chapter headed *Qualità e Difetti di Dante* he writes :

Fu il nostro poeta, oltre alle cose predette, di animo alto e disdegnoso molto; tanto che cercandosi per alcuno suo amico il quale a istanza de' suoi prieghi il faceva, ch' egli potesse ritornare in Firenze (il che egli oltre ad ogni altra cosa sommamente desiderava) nè trovandosi a ciò alcun modo con coloro li quali il governo della repubblica allora aveano nelle mani, se non uno, il quale era questo, che egli per certo spazio stesse in prigione, e dopo quello in alcuna solennità publica fosse misericordievolmente alla nostra principale chiesa offerto, e per conseguente libero e fuori d' ogni condannagione per adietro fatta di lui; la qual cosa parendogli convenirsi e usarsi in qualunque è depressi e non infami uomini e non in altri, perchè oltre al suo maggiore desiderio, preelesse di stare in esilio, anzi che per cotal

¹ See Hauvette, *Notes sur des Manuscrits autographes de Boccace à la Bibliothèque Laurentienne*, p. 50.

² See A. della Torre in *Bullettino della Società Dantesca Italiana*, N.S. xii, p. 160.

via tornare in casa sua. O isdegno laudevole di magnanimo, quanto virilmente operasti riprimendo l'ardente disio del ritornare per via meno che degna a uomo nel grembo della filosofia notricato!¹

The letter was first printed, in a very imperfect text, at Verona in 1790, by G. J. Dionisi, in the fifth volume (pp. 176–7) of his *Serie di Aneddoti*, and was reprinted by him at Verona in an emended, but still far from satisfactory, text in his *Preparazione istorica e critica alla nuova edizione di Dante Allighieri* in 1806 (Vol. I, pp. 71–3). The letter was reproduced, avowedly from Dionisi's original text, but with sundry modifications, by F. Cancellieri in his *Osservazioni sopra l'Originalità della Divina Commedia di Dante*, published at Rome in 1814 (pp. 59–60); and a few years later by De Romanis in the notes to his edition of Tiraboschi's *Vita di Dante* (Roma, 1817, pp. 46–7). In 1823 Ugo Foscolo reprinted the MS. text (into which he introduced several patent blunders) in his *Essays on Petrarch* (pp. 276–7), with an English translation (pp. 203–5). In the same year the letter was reprinted at Florence from Dionisi's *Aneddoti*, with several variations, in the second edition of Giuseppe Pelli's *Memorie per servire alla Vita di Dante* (p. 204). In 1827 Witte printed the letter at Padua in his *Dantis Alligherii Epistolae quae exstant* (*Epist.* VIII, pp. 65–6). Witte's text was reprinted (with certain modifications) at Florence by Fraticelli in 1840, in *Dantis Aligherii Epistolae quae exstant* (*Epist.* V, pp. 282–6); and at Leghorn by Torri in 1842, in *Epistole di Dante Allighieri edite e inedite* (*Epist.* XIII, pp. 96–8). In 1845 the letter was printed once more from the MS. in *Tre Epistole Latine di Dante Allighieri*, published at Prato (*Epist.* III, pp. 23–5) by Luigi Muzzi, whose professedly critical text is, however, vitiated by sundry arbitrary and uncalled for emendations, several of which, as appears from the Italian translation which he printed at the same time, were evidently due to his misunderstanding of the original. In 1857 Fraticelli published at Florence a revised text, with conjectural emendations of his own, in *Dantis Aligherii Epistolae* (*Epist.* X, in *Opere Minori di Dante*, ed. 1893, Vol. III, pp. 500–2), which was reprinted (with a few variations) at Florence in 1882 by Giuliani in *Le Opere Latine di Dante Allighieri* (*Epist.* IX,

¹ Ed. Macri-Leone, § 12. In the so-called *Compendio*, which Barbi has proved to be a revised version of the *Vita*, due to Boccaccio himself (see *Bull. Soc. Dant.*, N.S. XXI, p. 48), the account is much briefer: 'Fu adunque il nostro Poeta, oltre alle cose di sopra dette, d'animo altiero e disdegnoso molto, tanto che cercandosi per alcuno amico come egli potesse in Firenze tornare, nè altro modo trovandosi, se non che egli per alcuno spazio di tempo stato in prigione, fosse misericordievolmente offerto a San Giovanni, fu per lui a ciò, ogni fervente disio del ritornare calcato, risposto, che Iddio togliesse via, che alcuno che nel seno della filosofia allevato e cresciuto fosse, divenisse candelotto del suo comune.' (Ed. Rostagno, § 22.)

Vol. II, pp. 32–3)¹; and at Oxford in 1894 (and again in 1897 and 1904) by Dr Moore in the Oxford Dante (*Epist.* IX, pp. 413–14). A diplomatic transcript of the MS. text was published in the *Bullettino della Società Dantesca Italiana* for May–June 1905 (N.S. XII, pp. 122–3) by Arnaldo della Torre, several of whose proposed emendations were introduced into the latest reprint of the letter, namely that of Passerini², in his edition of *Le Opere Minori di Dante* (Firenze, 1910, *Epist.* IX, pp. 96–100).

At the end of last year (1914), in (belated) commemoration of the sixth centenary of the birth of Boccaccio (1313), a facsimile of the whole of *Cod. Laurent.* XXIX. 8 was published at Florence³. By means of this facsimile I have been able to make a fresh transcript of the MS. text of *Epist.* IX, which is subjoined below, together with an *apparatus criticus*, in which are registered variant readings from the printed editions enumerated above. The various editions in question are represented in the *apparatus criticus* as follows:

D¹. = Dionisi (1790); D². = Dionisi (1806); C. = Cancellieri (1814); R. = De Romanis (1817); Fo. = Foscolo (1823); Pe. = Pelli (1823); W. = Witte (1827); F¹. = Fraticelli (1840); T. = Torri (1842); M. = Muzzi (1845); F². = Fraticelli (1857); G. = Giuliani (1882); O. = Oxford Dante (1904); To. = A. della Torre (1905); P. = Passerini (1910); D¹.—P. = D¹.D².C.R.Fo.Pe.W.F¹.T.M.F².G.O.P., it being understood that any edition mentioned independently in the same note is excluded⁴.

Appended is a trial list of proposed emendations in the ‘standard’ text as printed in the Oxford Dante, together with a transcript of the text as emended, and an English translation of the same.

As in the case of previous transcripts printed in this *Review*, the contractions of the MS. have been expanded, the expansions being printed in italics. The punctuation of the MS., such as it is, has been preserved. For convenience of reference, as before, the text of the letter has been broken up into paragraphs, numbered [in square brackets] to correspond with the numbering of the sections in the Oxford Dante. In the MS. the letter, which is without title, and follows immediately after that to the Pistoian exile (*Epist.* IV), occupies the last twelve lines (ll. 43–54, numbered in round brackets in the transcript) of fol. 63^{ro}.

¹ The principal divergencies from the MS. of Fraticelli’s text were registered by O. Zenatti in *Dante e Firenze* (p. 532); as were those of Giuliani’s text by G. Mazzoni in the *Bullettino della Società Dantesca Italiana* for March–April, 1898 (N.S. v, p. 98, n. 1).

² This reprint is disfigured by several careless misprints, which will be found registered in the *apparatus criticus* below.

³ *Lo Zibaldone Boccaccesco Mediceo Laurenziano* (*Plut.* XXIX, 8). In Firenze, presso Leo S. Olschki, MCMXIV.

⁴ For example, note 2 on p. 64 indicates that M. follows the MS. and reads *et*, while all the other editions read *ex*.

[]¹.

[§ 1.] (43) In licteris uestris et reuerentia debita et affectione receptis quam repatriatio mea cure sit uobis et² animo grata mente ac diligenti animauersione³ (44) concepi / et inde⁴ tanto me districtius obligastis⁵ quanto rarius exules inuenire amicos contingit. Ad illarum⁶ vero singnificata⁷ responsio et si non erat qualem⁸ forsan (45) pusillanimitas appeteret aliquorum ut sub examine uestri consilij⁹ ante iudicium uentiletur¹⁰ affectuose deosco.

[§ 2.] Ecce igitur quod per licteras uestri meique nepotis (46) nec non aliorum quam plurium¹¹ amicorum singnificatum est mihi per ordinamentum nuper factum¹² Florentie¹³ super absolutione bannitorum quod si soluere uellem certam (47) pecunie quantitatem uellemque pati notam oblationis¹⁴ et absolui possem¹⁵ et redire ad¹⁶ presens In qua¹⁷ quidem duo ridenda et male preconculata¹⁸ sunt (48) pater dico male preconculata¹⁸ per illos qui talia¹⁹ expresserunt nam uestre lictere discretius et consultius clasulate. nicil de talibus continebant.

[§ 3.] Est ne ista (49) reuocatio gratiosa²⁰ qua dantes allagherii²¹ reuocatur ad patriam per trilustrium fere perpeusus²² exilium. hoc ne²³ meruit innocentia²⁴ manifesta quibuslibet. hoc²⁵ sudor et labor (50) continuatus in studio²⁶ absit a uiro philosophie domestico temeraria tantum²⁷

¹ There is no title to the letter in MS.; D¹.D². *Epistola di Dante*; F¹.T.F².G.O.P. *Amico Fiorentino*.

² So M.; D¹.—P. *ex*.

³ So D¹.C.R.Fo.; D².Pe.W.F¹.T.M.F².G.O.P. *animadversione*.

⁴ So M.F².G.O.P.; D¹.D².C.R.Fo.Pe.W.F¹.T. *etenim*.

⁵ So D¹.—P.; D². *obligatis*.

⁶ So D¹.D².Pe.W.F¹.T.M.F².G.O.P.; C.Fo. *illam*; R. *illorum*.

⁷ So D¹.—P., though D¹ erroneously gives *singula* as the MS. reading.

⁸ So M.; D¹.D².C.R.Fo.Pe.W.F¹.T. *respondeo, et si non eatenus qualiter*; F².G.O.P. *respondeo; et si responsio non erit qualiter*; D¹. erroneously gives the MS. reading as *erit* instead of *erat*; To. holds *erat* to be untenable, and proposes to read *erit*.

⁹ C. *concilii*.

¹⁰ So D¹.D².C.R.Pe.W.F¹.T.M.F².O.; Fo. *consilii sit ante iudicium*; G. *consilii antea iudicium uentiletur*; P. *consilii iudicium uentiletur*.

¹¹ Fo. *quamplurimum*.

¹² D². *ordinationem nuper factam*.

¹³ P. *Florentiam* (!).

¹⁴ M. *oblatoris*.

¹⁵ W.F¹.T. *posse*; D¹.—P. *possem*.

¹⁶ Fo. *at*.

¹⁷ So P.; D¹.—O. *quo*.

¹⁸ C.Fo. *perconsiliata*; D¹.—P. *praeconsiliata*.

¹⁹ D¹.C. *tali*; D².—P. *talia*.

²⁰ D¹.D².C.R.Fo.Pe.W.F¹.T.F².G.O. *gloriosa*; M.To.P. *generosa*.

²¹ D¹.D².C.Pe. *d. alla*; R.T.M. *D. Alla*; Fo. *d. all*; W.F¹. *Dantes Alligherius*; F². *Dantes Alagherii*; G. *Dantes Allagherius*; O. *Dantes Aligherius*; P. *Dantes Aligherius* (!).

²² Pe. *perpeusum*.

²³ D¹.D².C.R.Fo.Pe.W.F¹. *Haec ne*; T. *Hanc ne*; M.F².G.O.P. *Hoc ne*.

²⁴ C.Fo. *conscientia*; D¹.—P. *innocentia*.

²⁵ D¹.D².C.R.Fo.Pe.W.F¹.T. *Haec*; M.F².G.O.P. *Hoc*.

²⁶ C.Fo. *studiis*; D¹.—P. *studio*.

²⁷ So M.P.; D¹.—O. *terreni*.

cordis humilitas ut more cuiusdam cioli¹ et aliorum infamium². quasi uictus³ ipse se (51) patiat⁴ offerri⁴. absit a uiro predicante iustitiam ut perpe⁵ssus iniurias / iniuriam inferentibus⁵ uelud bene merentibus pecuniam suam soluat⁶.

[§ 4.] Non est hec (52) uia redeundi ad patriam pater mi Sed si⁷ alia per uos autem⁸, deinde per alios inuenitur⁹, que fame dantis que honori¹⁰ non deroget illam non lentis passibus acceptabo (53) Quod si per nullam talem florentia introitur¹¹ numquam Florentiam introibo Quidni? non¹² solis astrorumque specula ubique conspiciam nonne dulcissimas ueritates potero (54) speculati ubique sub celo. Ni prius inglorium ymo ingnominosum. populo Florentino ciuitati¹³ me reddam quippe nec panis deficit.

Proposed emendations in the Oxford text of Epist. ix.

Title. For Amico Florentino read [Amico Florentino] to indicate that the title is an editorial interpolation.

l. 3. For ex animo read (with MS., Muzzi, and Della Torre) et animo.

ll. 8–9. For significata respondeo; et si responsio non erit qualiter read (with MS., Muzzi, and Della Torre¹⁴) s. responsio etsi non erit (MS., Muzzi erat) qualem.

l. 21. For In quo read (with MS.) In qua¹⁵.

l. 27. For revocatio gloriosa read (with MS.) revocatio gratiosa¹⁶.

l. 28. For Dantes Aligherius read Dantes Alagherii¹⁷.

¹ W.F¹.T. scioli; D¹.—P. Cioli.

² C. infamiam; Fo. infamia; D¹.—P. infamium; D¹. gives infirmium as the MS. reading, which is doubtful.

³ So D².M.F².O.P.; D¹.C.R.Fo.Pe.W.F¹.T.G. uinctus.

⁴ M. offerre.

⁵ So D².M.F².G.O.P.; D¹.C.R.Fo.Pe.W.F¹.T. perpe⁵ssus iniuriam, inferentibus.

⁶ M. bene merentibus pecunias, suam soluat.

⁷ Pe. omits si.

⁸ So MS.; D¹.C.R.Fo.Pe.W.F¹.T.M.F².G.O. aut; D². (probably by a misprint) ut; To.P. ante.

⁹ So M.; D¹.—P. inuenitur.

¹⁰ So D¹.D².C.R.Fo.Pe.M.P.; W.T. quae famae Dantis, quae honori; F¹.F².G.O. quae famae Dantis atque honori.

¹¹ M. Florentiae introitur; T. Florentiâ i.; G. Florentiam i.; D¹.D².C.R.Fo.Pe.W.F¹.F².O.P. Florentia i.; D¹ erroneously gives foret introitus as the MS. reading.

¹² So MS. M.; D¹.—P. To. Nonne.

¹³ So M.P.; D¹.—O. populo Florentinaeque ciuitati; D¹. erroneously gives prope¹⁸ Florentiae ciuitati as the MS. reading.

¹⁴ See Bull. Soc. Dant. Ital., N.S. xii, p. 123, nn. c, d.

¹⁵ The antecedent being, as Della Torre observes (*loc. cit.*), 'absolutione bannitorum' of l. 17.

¹⁶ The MS. reading grosa can only stand for gratiosa; not for gloriosa (with Dionisi, etc.), which would be glosa in MS.; nor for generosa (with Muzzi and Della Torre), which would be gnosa. (See my note on *A misreading in Dante's Letter to a Friend in Florence*, in Bull. Soc. Dant. Ital., N.S. xx, pp. 58–9.)

¹⁷ This, as I have pointed out in a previous article (see *Mod. Lang. Rev.*, vii, p. 12, n. 7), is the recognized Latinized form of Dante's name.

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- l. 33. *For* *temeraria terreni cordis humilitas* read (with Muzzi, and Della Torre) *temeraria tantum*¹ *cordis humilitas*.
- l. 35. *For* *quasi victus* read (with the early editors) *quasi vinctus*².
- ll. 41–2. *For* *per vos aut deinde per alios* read *per vos anteceder³, deinde per alios*.
- l. 42. *For* *invenietur* read (with MS. and Muzzi) *invenitur*.
- ll. 42–3. *For* *famae Dantis atque honori* read (with MS. and the early editors) *famae Dantisque honori*.
- ll. 50–2. *For* *ignominiosum, populo Florentinaeque civitati me reddam* read (with MS. and Muzzi) *ignominiosum populo Florentino*⁴, *civitati me reddam*.

*Text of Epist. IX as emended*⁵.

[Amico Florentino.]

[§ 1.] In literis vestris, et reverentia (2) debita et affectione receptis, quam re-(3)-patriatio mea curae sit vobis et animo, (4) grata mente ac

¹ The MS. reading is in a sense indeterminate, as it may be meant for either *tm*, or *tmi*, or *tin*. The last is out of the question here. The second, in order to represent *terreni* (the reading of Dionisi, etc.), should have a loop after the *t*, which, however, might have been accidentally omitted by the scribe. The *tm* of the MS. normally represents *tantum*, which word seems to be required by the construction as the correlative of the *ut* of l. 34.

² The MS. reading is *victus*, which, by the accidental omission of the stroke over the *i* (representing *n*), may not improbably be a copyist's error for *vinctus*, the reading adopted by the majority of editors. The sense of *vinctus* ('like a prisoner in bonds') is much more appropriate to the context than that of *victus* (which would imply rather a prisoner of war), the point being that the person who was presented at the *oblatio*, as a preliminary to being pardoned, was either actually or technically a prisoner; if an actual malefactor, he was brought from the prison where he had been confined; if a political offender, he was obliged to cross the threshold of the prison, so as to constitute himself technically a prisoner. (On the *oblatio*, see Zenatti, *Dante e Firenze*, pp. 507 ff.; and *Bull. Soc. Dante Ital.*, N.S. xi, p. 29; xii, p. 155.)

³ The MS. reading is *aut*, with a stroke over it, which is the normal abbreviation of *autem*; but as *autem* cannot possibly be the correct reading, the early editors one and all substituted *aut*. As *u* and *n* are almost indistinguishable in MSS., Della Torre proposes to read *ante*, which is adopted in his text by Passerini; but the recognized abbreviation of *ante* is *añ* (with a stroke over the *n*), and it is so written in this MS. where the word occurs at the beginning of the letter (l. 11, 'ante iudicium'). On the other hand, it has been pointed out by Rostagno that *ant* with a loop over the *t* is the regular abbreviation of *anteceder*. As this word suits the sense, and its adoption involves only a very slight departure from the MS. reading, *anteceder* seems preferable to *ante*. One or other of these would appear to be required as the correlative to the following *deinde*. (See *Bull. Soc. Dante Ital.* xii, p. 125, n.)

⁴ The MS. reads simply *Flor*. without any trace of *que*, the insertion of which was due to Dionisi in the first instance. The restoration of the MS. reading necessitates an alteration in the usual English rendering of this passage. Foscolo and other English translators render: 'unless I first render myself inglorious, nay ignominious, in the eyes of the people and city of Florence.' The sense of the passage as emended would be: 'unless I first return to my native city, disgraced, nay dishonoured, in the eyes of the people of Florence.'

⁵ For convenience of reference the numbering of the sections [in square brackets], and of the lines (in round brackets), of the text as printed in the Oxford Dante have been inserted in the emended text.

diligenti animadversione (5) concepi; et inde tanto me districtius (6) obligastis, quanto rarius exules invenire (7) amicos contingit. Ad illarum vero sig-(8)-nificata responsio, etsi non (9) erit qualem forsan pusillanimitas appe-(10)-teret aliquorum, ut sub examine vestri (11) consilii ante iudicium ventiletur, affec-(12)-tuose deposco.

[§ 2.] (13) Ecce igitur quod per litteras vestri (14) meique nepotis, nec non aliorum quam-(15)-plurium amicorum, significatum est mihi (16) per ordinamentum nuper factum Floren-(17)-tiae super absolutione bannitorum: quod (18) si solvere vellem certam pecuniae quanti-(19)-tatem, vellemque pati notam oblationis, (20) et absolvi possem et redire ad praesens. (21) In qua quidem duo ridenda et male prae-(22)-consiliata sunt, Pater; dico male prae-(23)-consiliata per illos qui talia expresserunt, (24) nam vestrae litterae discretius et con-(25)-sultius clausulatae nihil de talibus con-(26)-tinebant.

[§ 3.] (27) Estne ista revocatio gratiosa, qua (28) Dantes Alagherii revocatur ad patriam, (29) per trilustrum fere perpessus exilium? (30) Hocne meruit innocentia manifesta qui-(31)-buslibet? Hoc sudor et labor continuatus (32) in studio? Absit a viro philosophiae (33) domestico temeraria tantum cordis hu-(34)-militas, ut more cuiusdam Cioli et ali-(35)-orum infamium, quasi vinctus ipse se (36) patiatur offerri! Absit a viro praedicante (37) iustitiam ut perpessus iniurias, iniuriam (38) inferentibus, velut benemerentibus, pe-(39)-cuniam suam solvat!

[§ 4.] (40) Non est haec via redeundi ad patriam, (41) Pater mi; sed si alia per vos antecedenter, deinde (42) per alios invenitur, quae famae Dantis-(43)-que honori non deroget, illam non (44) lentis passibus acceptabo. Quod si per (45) nullam talem Florentia introitur, num-(46)-quam Florentiam introibo. Quidni? (47) nonne solis astrorumque specula ubique (48) conspiciam? Nonne dulcissimas verita-(49)-tes potero speculari ubique sub coelo, ni (50) prius inglorium, immo ignominiosum, (51) populo Florentino, civitati me red-(52)-dam? Quippe nec panis deficit.

Translation.

[To a Friend in Florence.]

[§ 1.] From your letter, which I received with due respect and affection, and have diligently studied, I learn with gratitude how my recall to Florence has been the object of your care and concern; and I am the more beholden to you therefor, inasmuch as it rarely happens

that an exile finds friends. My reply to what you have written, although perchance it be not of such tenour as certain faint hearts would desire, I earnestly beg may be carefully examined and considered by you before judgment be passed upon it.

[§ 2.] I gather, then, from the letter of your nephew and mine¹, as well as from those of sundry other friends, that, by the terms of a decree lately promulgated in Florence touching the pardon of the exiles, I may receive pardon, and be permitted to return forthwith, on condition that I pay a certain sum of money, and submit to the stigma of the oblation²—two propositions, my Father, which in sooth are as ridiculous as they are ill-advised, ill-advised, that is to say, on the part of those who have communicated them, for in your letter, which was more discreetly and cautiously formulated, no hint of such conditions was conveyed.

[§ 3.] This, then, is the gracious recall of Dante Alighieri to his native city, after the miseries of well-nigh fifteen years of exile! This is the reward of innocence manifest to all the world, and of the sweat and toil of unremitting study! Far be it from a familiar of philosophy to commit such a senseless act of abasement as voluntarily to present himself, like a felon in bonds, at the oblation, as one Ciolo and other infamous wretches have done! Far be it from the preacher of justice, after suffering wrong, to pay of his money to those that wronged him, as though they had deserved well of him!

[§ 4.] No! my Father, not by this path will I return to my native city. If some other can be found, in the first place by yourself and then by others, which does not derogate from the fame and honour of Dante, that will I tread with no lagging steps. But if by no such path Florence may be entered, then will I enter Florence never. What! can I not anywhere gaze upon the face of the sun and the stars? can I not under any sky contemplate the most precious truths, without I first return to Florence, disgraced, nay dishonoured, in the eyes of my fellow-citizens? Assuredly bread will not fail me!

PAGET TOYNBEE.

FIVEWAYS, BURNHAM, BUCKS.

¹ There is reason to suppose that this common nephew of Dante and of his correspondent was one Niccolò Donati, son of Foresino (or Forese) di Manetto Donati, the brother of Dante's wife, Gemma Donati. In this case Dante's correspondent, whom he addresses as 'Pater' (ll. 22, 41), would be another brother of Gemma's, Teruccio di Manetto Donati, who was a member of a religious order, and a bachelor of divinity. (See *Bull. Soc. Dante Ital.*, N.S. XII, p. 160.)

² See p. 66, n. 2.