

TABLE VI. : THE HOUSE OF ARAGON

John Sobrarias, or John of Alcañiz, wrote the genealogy of the Family of Ayerbe ¹, which Gaspare Scioppio enumerated in a distinguished section of his booklet on the origin and posterity of the Kings of Aragon ² for Caspar of Ayerbe of Aragon Prince of Cassano by name, which Carlo de Lellis then gave among the noble families of Naples in Volume I of his work ³. Peter, the begetter of the house of Ayerbe, was given by his father the King the towns and the castles of Ayerbe, Lusía, Ahuero, Liso, Artaso, Castellòn, Siestico, Borota, Azuere, Cabatrajis and Binimiena as is to be read in the Chronicles of Aragon; to these territories were added castles and towns in Catalonia brought in her dowry by his wife Aldonza Cervera. The elder son born to him succeeded him in the territory of Ayerbe and first took as his wife Maria Ferdinanda de Luna, whom he soon repudiated for her too tender age. and he took in his second marriage Yolanda Lascaris, daughter of William Count of Vintimiglia and of Irene the daughter of Theodore Lascaris, Emperor of Constantinople; thereafter with the authority of the Church he divorced his second wife on the ground that his first wife was still alive; however the daughters of the former were declared legitimate.

Peter IV King of Aragon removed Michael, son of James, from the inheritance of his uncle Peter Lord of Ayerbe, and Ayerbe reverted to the Crown, because this Infant allied himself actively with Ferdinand Marquis of Tortosa in war for the kingdom, united against King Peter himself; who therefore gave the Barony of Ayerbe to the said Ferdinand and which he promptly sold to Peter Jordan de Urria, whose daughter was taken in marriage by Sancho, the grandson of Michael. In as much as he had transferred the town of Ayerbe to other people, nevertheless he and his descendants maintained a residence there and he possessed other lands in that region, which had come down to him in inheritance from his father, as well as certain towns such as Liso, Brancavilla, Valderassa and Paternos; and he was styled Lord of the same, as were his successors. Sancho, of whom we have already spoken, had three sons by Maria de Urria : Garcia, dedicated to the priesthood and who died in Rome; John, the father of various children, among whom Peter who lived in Zaragoza and who established his descendance there as mentioned by Carlo de Lellis; and Sancho. The latter set out for Naples with King Alfonso and acquired the town of Simari in Calabria, to where he transferred his offspring who were rewarded with new honours and very considerable wealth in the kingdom of Naples: indeed we read that his son Alfonso was honoured with the title of Count, and his grandson was raised to the rank of Marquis of Grotteria; from whom was born Peter who fathered Caspar who also received the title of Prince of Cassano. The latter's son Philibert obtained the distinguished rank of Duke of Alessano by virtue of his wife's inheritance; and Nicholas Michael presently excels in the honours of his grandfather and his supreme virtue, intelligence, gentleness and reverence are worthy of mention.

¹ Juan Sobrarias, or of Alcañiz : Genealogia regum Aragoniae, Zaragoza, 1509

² Gaspare Scippio : De Aragoniae regum origine, posteritate, et cum primariis orbis Christiani familiis consanguinitate, Milan, 1628

³ Carlo de Lellis : Discorsi delle famiglie nobili del Regno di Napoli, Naples, 1654