



Photo: B.L.C. 1911

Engraving: J. G. G. G. G. G.

THE STAIRCASE OF ADMIRALTY HOUSE, MALTA.

A CURIOUS and artistic "bit" of old Malta, in its way, is the Staircase at the Admiralty House there, the present official residence of the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet. What is now Admiralty House was, in the times when the Knights of St. John held sway in Malta, the residence of a high official of the Order, the holder of one of the lucrative Bailiwick, which were attached to each of the eight "Languages" into which the Order of St. John of Malta was divided. The Bailiff, Don RAYMONDO GONZALEZ, who was the last occupant of the residence under the regime of the Grand Masters, was dispossessed by BONAPARTE who, at the time of his 7 years' occupation in June, 1798, placed the house at the disposal of Bishop LAMUSI, the head of the Maltese clergy, and he was a vicarage. Admiralty House is situated in the Strada Mezzosa, off the Strada Reale, and our view of the staircase shows the main entrance leading to the Admiralty offices and to the Admiral's private apartments.