

famished as a wolf when I paid that visit to the camp the day before Zeno's arrival; his clothes hung loose about him, his cheeks were hollow, and his eyes sunken; he would have been a sight for men to stare at had not every one else been in an equally bad case. Well, I thank God there is an end of it now! Genoa will be glad to make peace on any terms, and the sea will once more be open to our ships. So now, Francisco, you have done with fighting, and will be able to turn your attention to the humbler occupation of a merchant."

"That will I right gladly," Francis said: "I used to think once I should like to be a man-at-arms; but I have seen enough of it, and hope never will draw my sword again, unless it be in conflict with some Moorish rover. I have had many letters from my father, chiding me for mingling in frays in which I have no concern, and shall be able to gladden his heart by writing to assure him that I have done with fighting."

"It has done you no harm, Francisco, or rather it has done you much good. It has given you the citizenship of Venice, in itself no slight advantage to you as a trader here; it has given you three hundred ducats a year, which, as a mark of honour, is not to be despised; it has won for you a name throughout the republic, and has given you a fame and popularity such as few, if any, citizens of Venice ever attained at your age. Lastly, it has made a man of you; it has given you confidence and self-possession; you have acquired the habit of commanding men; you have been placed in positions which have called for the exercise of rare judgment, prudence, and courage; and you have come well through it all. It is but four years since your father left you a lad in my keeping; now you are a man, whom the highest noble in Venice might be proud of calling his son. You have