

# LIFE OF ST. PETER THOMAS, OF THE ORDER OF CARMELITES:

DEVOTED SERVANT OF MARY—TITULAR PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE—LEGATE OF THE CRUSADE OF 1365.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF L'ABBE A. PARRAUD.

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## CHAPTER VI.

CONSOLER AND ZEALATOR—THE GREAT PESTILENCE—SECOND APPARITION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN—VISIT TO THE MONASTERIES OF HIS ORDER—1348-1352.



HE floating population which we have described, perhaps it were better to say the ever changing class of "society," went on as ever, living in luxurious ease, and forgetting that there existed for them other duties and obligations of a nature far more serious.

Although the warning voice of the apostle failed not to find a response in the hearts of the multitude, there were still many, alas! too many blind and foolish ones who delayed too long in following his admonitions. And this despite the warnings which the anger of heaven continued to send, dread fore-runners of the terrible punishments in store for the unheeding.

The year 1347 was ushered in by calamities well calculated to make the most unthinking reflect. The overflow of the Rhone swept away advancing vegetation, and dire distress all too soon stalked ruthlessly over the land.

An earthquake, which impressed even the most unbelieving, marked the advent of the year 1348. The zealous priest availed himself of these events to inspire the gay, the reckless, and the guilty with a sense of the punishments sent by our Lord to His creatures. Like another Jonah he repaired to places of public resort crying aloud, "unless you do penance you shall all perish." But his apostolic fervor found little response in their hearts, hardened as they were to the impulses of grace.

Meanwhile the second day of the second month dawned upon the city so picturesque in its magnificence, so unconscious of what was to come! An unbidden guest grimly forced its way within its walls, and one glance sufficed to show that the *black pestilence* was in their midst! From the far distant Orient the terrible scourge had ravaged Persia, Armenia, Syria, Egypt, the Archipelago and Italy. Passing over the mountains, it had spread desolation all through the fair lands of Savoy, of Burgundy, of Provence. In its insatiable voracity it spared neither venerable age, bright happy youth,