

of approval for such "noble sentiments," and even formulated a few phrases expressive of approval for the legate. The next day he publicly declared his friendly sentiments towards St. Peter Thomas. The legate, profiting by the few days of grace afforded him by this truce, placed himself in communication with the various churches which were as yet not in communion with the one true fold. Several gave him positive assurances of a return, but alas, few had the opportunity to realize them, for Stratimir perceiving that he had nothing favorable to hope for from the Holy See in his conflict with his suzerain, resumed his former attitude, and indulged to the fullest extent his deceitful and intolerant spirit. He went so far as to lay snares for the papal legate, and made several treacherous attempts upon his life. Justice, though its action may at times be tardy, will eventually have its way. After six years of unsuccessful attempts, a war ensued. We will have occasion, later on, to speak of this final conflict—in which the victorious King of Hungary, invading the dominions of Stratimir, seized upon Dodona, the capital, and triumphantly bore off the despotic tyrant to languish in a well-merited captivity.

Meanwhile the Bishop of Patti, with fervent prayers for those unhappy provinces, bestowed upon them the Apostolic benediction, and with the deepest emotion, left with his associates in the embassy and pursued the journey towards France.

His mission, which had lasted a year, had by no means been without fruit. Those who were Catholics, but indifferent ones, had been strengthened and confirmed in their faith. Then the newly converted ones persevered despite the persecutions more or less

violent which they had to endure either from the Greeks or the Turks, when the latter invaded Rascia in 1458.

A numerous tribe of Catholic Rasciens emigrated at that time to the southern part of Austria, and established themselves permanently there. They have perpetuated the holy faith and in all the changing vicissitudes of years have remained faithful children of the Church, and fearless defenders of her truths.

CHAPTER X.

THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN HUNGARY AND VENICE—GENEROUS CONCURRENCE OF HUNGARY—FIRST OVERTURE OF PETER THOMAS REGARDING THE CRUSADE—THE VENETIANS WILL NOT ACCEPT THE PROFFERED PEACE, AND SUSTAIN A DISASTROUS DEFEAT—1356.

After the manner in which his legates had been treated, and the unwelcome interruption of their mission, the Sovereign Pontiff, in the matter of the Bulgarians and the religious liberty, so much to be desired, recognized that to rely upon the arguments of theology would indeed be useless. His only hope rested upon the proposed military expedition of Louis I. against the rebels. It was therefore an exceedingly great disappointment to him when an unexpected diversion drew the valiant army of that brave monarch in quite another direction.

In the year 1356, the Venitians had taken possession of Zara in the Dalmation country, a maritime city belonging to Hungary. In reprisal King Louis, in the month of June, laid siege to Treviso (in the same province) a city under the dominion of the Venitians. To still the fury of the tempest and calm the rage of the belligerents,