

gular troops for its defence, and a few citizens able to bear arms. He sent instant advice of his distress to Venice, and took his post at the harbour, that he might be more at hand to succour the besieged. He threw aboard two hundred and fifty men into the town before the enemy could cut their lines completed, and often attempted, but in vain, to introduce new reinforcements. The Turks approaching the body of the place, had carried a half moon which covered the gate of Retimo; and avoiding themselves of their numerous artillery, continued daily to batter the wall in breach. The besieged bravely returned their fire, and made them pay dearly for a few doubtful successes. General Cornaro endeavoured to arm the Greeks, and especially the Spachiots, who boasted of their bravery. He formed a battalion of them; but their days of prowess were no more: The moment they saw the enemy, and heard the thunder of the artillery, they shamefully took flight, nor was it possible to make a single man of them stand fire.

While the Senate of Venice were deliberating on the means of saving Candia, and busied in fitting out a fleet, the Mahometan Generals lavished the blood of their soldiers to bring their enterprise to a glorious termination: They had already lost twenty thousand warriors in the different engagements; but they had descended into the fosses, and dug under the ramparts those frightful cavities, in which the powder confined bursts with an horrible explosion, and overturns forts of the greatest solidity. They played off one of these mines under the bastion of St. Demetrius, which blew up a great part of the wall, and swallowed all its defenders. The assailants instantly mounted the breach, sabre in hand, and profiting by the general consternation, made themselves masters of that post. The besieged, recovered from their fright, fell upon them with unexampled intrepidity. About four hundred Venetians rushed on two thousand Turks, already in possession of the wall, and pushed them with so much ardour and obstinacy, as to make a prodigious slaughter, and force the remainder into the ditches. In this extremity every body fought; the monks carried the musket; women, forgetting the delicacy of their sex, appeared in the midst of the defendants, either to assist in supplying them with arms, or to wield them themselves against the enemy; and several of these glorious heroines lost their lives.

During fifty days the place held out against the whole forces of the Turks; and

even at the last moment, if the Venetians had sent a fleet to its succour, the kingdom of Candia would have been saved. They could not undoubtedly be ignorant of the following fact: The north wind blows full into the gulph of Canea, and when strong the sea runs very high. It is then impossible for any squadron, however numerous, to form in line of battle to wait an enemy. Had the Venetians set sail from Ceringe with this favourable wind, they would have reached Canea in five hours, and entered the harbour in full sail, without firing a shot, or the possibility of being opposed by a single Turkish vessel, which could not move without endangering their safety on the coast, and dashing to pieces on the surrounding shoals. Instead of executing such a plan, suggested by the very nature of the situation, they sent a few galleys, which not daring to double Cape Spada, coasted along the southern shore of the island, and failed of effecting the purpose intended.

The garrison of Canea, despairing of succours which had been long delayed, seeing three breaches open, by which the infidels might easily mount to the assault, overcome with fatigue, and covered with wounds, reduced to five hundred men, whom it was necessary to disperse over walls of half a league's circumference, every where undermined, at length demanded a capitulation. They obtained the most honourable conditions; and after two months glorious defence, which cost the Turks five and twenty thousand men, marched out of the place with all the honours of war. The citizens who did not choose to remain had permission to withdraw; and the Turks, contrary to their custom, executed the convention with tolerable fidelity.

The Venetians, after the capture of Canea retired to Retimo; and the Captain Pacha proceeded to lay siege to the Castle of La Sude, situated at the entrance of the bay, on a rock about a quarter of a league in circumference. He raised batteries, and endeavoured, but without effect, to make a breach in the ramparts. Despairing to carry it by force, he left troops to continue the blockade, and marched towards Retimo. This town, without walls, was defended by a citadel, built on an eminence that commanded the harbour, into which General Cornaro had retired. At the approach of the enemy he drew his men out of the citadel, and waited for them in the open field. During the action he exposed his person without reserve, and fought in the ranks to encourage his soldiers. A glorious death was the reward of