

Friar Robert, that news had arrived from Naples of great importance which required immediate determination, and the king quitting the queen's chamber, which was separated by a gallery from the apartment where business was transacted, being in the middle of it, a cord was cast round his neck, and he was strangled and thrown out of a window, the Hungarians, as it was in the dead of the night, being buried in sleep and wine.

This murder caused various disturbances, and vicissitudes; and the king of Hungary, considering Queen Jane in a great measure as an accomplice in the atrocious murder of his brother, resolved to avenge him. The counsellors and friends of the queen thought it requisite she should be prepared for defence, and first of all that she should be united to a spouse who, by his authority and power, might be able to oppose so great an enemy: Robert prince of Taranto, who was come to Naples to visit her, proposed Lewis his younger brother, being a valiant prince and in the flower of youth. This proposal pleased the council, and a year being elapsed since the death of the king, and the great preparations of the King of Hungary known, the marriage was contracted immediately without waiting for the dispensation of the Pope.

In the mean while the King of Hungary, either from a desire of revenge, or that of possessing so fine a kingdom, had already marched with a formidable army towards Naples, before any intelligence of it had reached that city.

The queen, heirs of the prudence of the great King Robert, her grandfather, gave in her tender age proofs of a great mind by a wise resolution. She determined to gain time and conquer by flying, as she had not sufficient strength to defend herself against her enemy. Therefore, having called a general parliament, she delivered a speech full of grace, which caused many to shed tears, exhorting her subjects to yield to necessity and present the keys of the city to the enemy; comforting them by saying, that she hoped from the justice of God, that he would restore her the kingdom and honor. She departed from Naples the 15th of January, 1348, accompanied by her spouse, the prince of Taranto, and *Niccolò Acciajoli*.

The wrathful king of Hungary in the mean time had entered the kingdom of Naples, and the chief barons went to Aquila to pay homage to him. The monarch feigned to be civil to all; but pursuing his journey and passing before the place where his brother had been strangled, he stopt and asked the duke of Durazzo, from which window King Andrew had been thrown out? The duke answered, that he did not know; and the king showing him a letter written by the duke to Charles of Artois, and saying to him, that he could not deny his own hand writing, ordered him, immediately to be killed and cast out of the same window from which King Andrew had been thrown.

After having taken possession of the kingdom, and resided there four months, the King of Hungary set sail from Barletta, in order to return to his own court, leaving at Naples Gilforte Lupo his Lieutenant.

Queen Jane and King Lewis were, during this time, in Avignon, at the court of the Pope. A public consistory was granted to the queen, in which she defended her own cause with so much grace and eloquence, that the Pope and the whole college of cardinals, who in the trial concerning the death of King