

# 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 XII.

THE PILGRIM—HIS DESTINATION THE HOLY LAND—HIS SEVERE ILLNESS IN  
CYPRUS—MOUNT CARMEL—JERUSALEM—SURPRISE OF THE  
SARACENS—THE HAPPY RETURN—1358.



HERE is the Christian possessing the treasure of a living faith who does not cherish in his heart the desire—more or less latent—of one day visiting the Holy Land?

And Blessed Peter, in an eminent degree, had long wished that that great privilege might be his. Since his sojourn in the East, the idea seemed destined to become a reality, his ardent longing was apparently about to be gratified, the time for beholding the object of his veneration, the Holy Land, and pressing his foot upon its sacred soil was at hand.

The mission to Constantinople was over. The ambassadors of the Emperor, bearing the letter of which mention has been made, went to attend to the Court of Avignon the Bishop of Chrysopolis who was prepared to give a graphic account of affairs in the East.

The Bishop of Patti was then at

liberty to avail himself of the permission which, with all due deference, he had already solicited from his superiors, to set out upon the great expedition.

Access to the Holy Land was especially difficult to Occidentals during those first centuries immediately following the fall of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem (1187).

To risk disembarking upon the Syrian coasts and proceeding into the interior of the country was to expose one's self to be pillaged by Arab plunderers, and suspected by Mussulman authorities ever ready to look upon strangers as coming amongst them with no other purpose than to spy.

In spite of these impediments there were always some devout souls of the laity, principally noble chevaliers, who would never abandon the time-honored practice of the pilgrimage. But for a Religious (unless it were a Franciscan) for a Bishop, *above all* for a representative of the Pope, the enterprise was indeed a hazardous one.

But nothing could daunt the intrepid Peter Thomas. After cordial expres-