

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 VII.

THE PANEGYRIST OF CLEMENT VI.—LAST YEARS OF THE PONTIFF'S LIFE—HIS OBSEQUIES—THE BLACK VIRGIN OF PUY—PAPAL MAUSOLEUM AT CHAISE DIEU—1352-1353.



THE closing years of Pope Clement's life were marked by the noble efforts he made to behold peace—sweet peace—reign among his spiritual children. In Italy, active measures were taken to produce an amicable spirit in the various republics to which was tendered the earnest advice to suppress their antagonism towards each other, and *not* to annihilate by quarrels the strength, of which Christianity had so much need, to combat against the bold attacks of Islamism.

Upon the French territory, urged on and instigated by the aggression across the channel, there was waged a perpetual conflict, capable of destroying the two first people of the world. To effect a reconciliation, Clement sent, in the month of September, 1352, a special embassy to the foes. But the Pontiff was not permitted to see the result of his negotiations. It became evident

that life was ebbing away. With the fall of the leaf a low fever attacked him, and on the fifth day of the last month he died. Then from the little cupola, which still adorns the most ancient part of the palace, came immediately the silvery tones of the bell, which, so runs the legend, never rings save at the election of a Pontiff, and when death bids him lay aside the cares and honors of his elevated position.

Some days later on the remains of the Pontiff were temporarily placed in the cathedral church of Avignon—where they remained until the following spring. Then, in accordance with his last will, they were removed for sepulture to the monastery of "la Chaise-Dieu, in Auvergne. Clement VI. had always felt the greatest affection for this religious house—for therein in his early years he had been enrolled among the sons of the great St. Benedict.

The funeral cortege of the illustrious Pontiff was a grand sight, solemn and imposing, a something not easily forgotten. His brother, the Count de