

the city and the temple. When Europe, stung with these disasters, poured forth another crusade, the Temple, at the battle before Acre, which the Christians were besieging, upheld the fight with the loss of more than half their number; in the attack upon Gaza, during the Carizmian invasion, only thirty-three Templars escaped; and when, after barren victories and losses which European enthusiasm would no longer replace, they were driven to Acre, the Templars and Hospitallers persisted to the last, though a safe retreat was open and no hope existed of saving the place.

“William de Beaujeu, the Grand Master of the Temple, a veteran warrior of a hundred fights, took the command of the garrison, which amounted to about twelve thousand men, exclusive of the forces of the Temple and the Hospital, and a body of five hundred foot and two hundred horse, under the command of the King of Cyprus. These forces were distributed along the walls in four divisions; the first of which was commanded by Hugh de Grandison, an English knight. The old and the feeble, women and children, were sent away by sea to the Christian island of Cyprus; and none remained in the devoted city but those who were prepared to fight in its defence, or to suffer martyrdom at the hands of the Infidels. The siege lasted six weeks, during the whole of which period the sallies and the attacks were incessant. Neither by night nor by day did the shouts of the assailants and the noise of the military engines cease; the walls were battered without, and the foundations were sapped by miners, who were incessantly labouring to advance their works. More than six hundred catapults, ballistæ, and other instruments of destruction, were directed against the fortifications; and the battering-machines were of such immense size and weight, that a hundred waggons were required to transport the separate timbers of one of them. Moveable towers were erected by the Moslems, so as to overtop the walls; their workmen and advanced parties were protected by hurdles covered with raw hides; and all the military con-

trivances the age could produce were used to facilitate the assault. For a long time their utmost efforts were foiled by the valour of the besieged, who made constant sallies upon their works, burnt their towers and machines, and destroyed their miners. Day by day, however, the numbers of the garrison were thinned by the sword, whilst in the enemy's camp the places of the dead were constantly supplied by fresh warriors from the deserts of Arabia, animated with the same wild fanaticism in the cause of their religion as that which so eminently distinguished the military monks of the temple. On the 4th of May, after thirty-three days of constant fighting, the great tower, considered the key of the fortifications, and called by the Moslems *the cursed tower*, was thrown down by the military engines. To increase the terror and distraction of the besieged, Sultan Khali mounted three hundred drummers with their drums upon as many dromedaries, and commanded them to make as much noise as possible whenever a general assault was ordered. From the 4th to the 14th of May, the attacks were incessant; on the 15th the double wall was forced; and the King of Cyprus, panic-stricken, fled in the night to his ships, and made sail for the island of Cyprus with all his followers, and with nearly three thousand of the best men of the garrison. On the morrow, the Saracens attacked the post he had deserted; they filled up the ditches with dead men and horses, piles of wood, stones, and earth; and their trumpets then sounded to the assault. Ranged under the yellow banner of Mahomet the Mamlooks forced the breach, and penetrated sword in hand to the very centre of the city; but their victorious career and insulting shouts were there stopped by the mail-clad knights of the Temple and the Hospital, who charged on horseback through the narrow streets, drove them back with immense carnage, and precipitated them headlong from the walls.

“At sunrise the following morning, the air resounded with the deafening noise of drums and trumpets; and the breach was carried and recovered several times; the military friars at last closing up the pas-