

Their portraits in the rude art of the Berlin lithographer hang on even the walls of the hotels. Their ecclesiastical side is in evidence by the churches which they reared, by the hagiological names which they gave to many of the streets, by the saintly figures which, in spite of three-fourths of a century of Protestant rulers, still stand at the corners, and by the necessity which we have only recently found to come to an understanding with the Pope as to the limits of the canon law in this most faithful portion of his spiritual dominions.

driven them from Rhodes, determined to make one supreme effort to dislodge the Order from their new home. The invading fleet consisted of 138 vessels, and an army of 33,000 men. These sea and land forces were soon afterwards increased by the arrival of 2,500 resolute old corsairs brought from Algiers, and by eighteen ships under the famous Dragut, the pirate chief of Tripoli, who, by the fortunes of war, was in a few years later fated to toil as a galley-slave in this very harbour.

The siege lasted for nearly four months. Every spot of ground



ARMOURY IN THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE, VALLETTA.

On the other hand, the secular side of the Order is quite as prominent. The fortress of St. Elmo was a place round which the tide of battle often swirled, when Pajnim and Christian fought for the mastery of the island. Of all these sieges the greatest is that of 1565. Twice previously, in 1546 and 1551, the Turks had endeavoured to expel the knights, but failed to effect a landing. But in the year mentioned the Sultan Solymán the Magnificent, the same Solymán who thirty-four years before had

was contested with heroic determination until it was evident that Fort St. Elmo could no longer hold out. Then the knights, worn and wounded, and reduced to a mere remnant of their number, steadfast as the immortal three hundred who fell at Thermopylae, received the "viaticum"—their last sacrament—in the little castle chapel, and embracing each other went forth on the ramparts to meet their doom. All day long that brave band stood facing an army till the last Christian knight was