

derivation of the name. No wonder that the Knights' struggled so gallantly to maintain such a possession—that the decks of the fugitive vessels, as the land faded from their sight, resounded with the tears of the exiles, on being expelled from such a terrestrial paradise."

For seven years after their departure from Rhodes, the Knights travelled through Europe, and without any fixed place of abode. They had temporary seats at Cyprus, Castria, in the island of Candia, Messina in Sicily, and lastly at Rome. During these wanderings, the Grand Master, De L'Isle Adam, busied himself in preventing a general dispersioi of the Knights, and in securing the property of the Order, in different countries, which was in danger of being seized and confiscated. In pursuance of this object, he visited Spain, Portugal, France and England, and not only secured the possessions and rights of the Order in those countries, but received promises of valuable assistance from the several monarchs. While in England, he abode several days at the Commandery of St. John, Clerkenwell, and was received by King Henry VIII., with great honor and attention, who on his departure presented him with a gold basin and cup, enriched with precious stones, which remained in the general treasury at Malta, until carried away by the French Republicans.

At length, in the year 1530, through the intercessions of the Pope and his own exertions, De L'Isle Adam procured from the Emperor, Charles V., of Spain, a grant of the Island of Malta, which the Knights were to garrison and defend against the increasing power of the Turks. They took possession on the 26th of October, 1530, and immediately commenced to repair the fortifications and defences. The Grand Master, although advanced in years, devoted himself energetically to the work, and caused numerous new galleys to be constructed; and Malta, from a weak and defenceless port, soon grew up to be the bulwark of Christendom, and the terror of the African corsairs. Since this period, the Hospitaller have been known by the title of "*Knights of Malta.*"

De L'Isle Adam died on the 21st of August, 1534, and was succeeded by John De Omedes. Under his rule, and that of Claude de la Sengle, the Knights fully sustained their ancient reputation. Sultan Solymán was defeated in two unsuccessful attacks, and his armies and fleet compelled to retreat from the island. But these defeats served only to incite the Sultan to renewed efforts. On the 18th of May, 1565, the Ottoman fleet again appeared before Malta, consisting of 59 large ships, carrying a force of 30,000 men, including the Janissaries and Spahis, the most formidable soldiers of the Turkish army, while a considerable number of vessels followed, laden with the heavy artillery and munitions of war. The Knights were now destined to sustain the most terrific attack that had ever been made upon them; and the result proved, that