

master of Lombardy, of a considerable portion of Friuli, of almost all of Liguria, (at least as far as Genoa), and a fraction of the states of the Church, he deemed himself invincible. Hoping much from his alliance with the Florentines, he developed even a more insolent spirit. And in truth his treasures, his political finesse, his readiness of resource, his indefatigable activity, his skill as a warrior, as well as his talent for government constituted him an enemy to be regarded with apprehension, a formidable invader of the ecclesiastical dominions. The Court of Rome had, by a treaty, ceded to him the possession of Bologna up to the year 1364. But in 1360, the regent who governed that city in the name of Barnabo, having revolted against the latter, offered it to Cardinal Albornoz, who commanded the powers of the Church in Italy. The Cardinal had accepted it as a compensation for certain acts of injustice on the part of the Milanese. The latter had therefore laid siege to Bologna.

In consequence of these events, William de Grimoard, Abbot of St. Germain, had been sent to negotiate with Barnabo.

Admitted to his presence, he spoke fearlessly to the base creature, and so clearly established the justice of the action of Rome that Barnabo, unaccustomed to the language of an independent spirit, fell into such a violent rage that he could not contain himself. Unmindful of the doubly august character with which the Abbot of St. Germain was invested, he tore the letter of Pope Innocent into shreds and forced his envoy to eat it.

Some months, later on, William de Grimoard had become Pope Urban V. The miscreant was not in the least disconcerted at the tidings, but on the

contrary was the first amongst the princes to send his felicitations to the new Pontiff. But, as may be well imagined, his ambassadors met with a very frigid reception from Urban V., who, without personal resentment, knew how to sustain the dignity of the Holy See.

He sought, but without success, to ingratiate himself with the King of France, who was allied to the Visconti. Meanwhile Urban remained inflexible, and renewed the excommunication.

The intestine war thus extended to all the Italian powers. Two parties divided the Peninsula. Cardinal Barnabo had formed a powerful league against Visconti. Pisa, Verona, Padua, and Ferrara combined with the Cardinal against the enemy, who hurled fierce threats against them all. In the midst of such a conflagration, what hopes could they base upon the vague promises of Italy in favor of the crusade? How, in the first place, obtain from Barnabo the promise even to leave his neighbors at peace, and free to act, and secondly to induce him to furnish his quota. The conditions were that the Milanese would retract his heresies, restore the territory taken from the allies of the Holy See and express sincere repentance for his crimes.

John named two ambassadors to bring the affair to a happy termination. Lusignan also named two, who were Peter Thomas and Philip de Mezzieres. Arrived at Milan in June, the representatives of the two monarchs, especially those from France, were received with every mark of distinction. The crafty Visconti, who had not recovered from an unlooked for repulse received at Salaruolo (April 16, 1363,) did not show himself hostile to their propositions. Yielding, on