

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 XIII.

THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE—UNIVERSAL LEGATE OF THE ORIENT—BISHOP OF
CORON—RETURN TO CONSTANTINOPLE—NEW CONFERENCES—
SURPRISE OF THE FORTRESS LAMPSAQUE—1359.



HE return of Peter Thomas to Avignon caused a great revival of Catholic sympathy in regard to the Oriental Church. His report confirmed the account already received from Constantinople, and was a source of the deepest joy to the Roman Court. With one accord the members of the Sacred College resolved to agitate, with all the energy of which they were capable, the best method to accomplish the much-desired re-union. And to bring the negotiations to a happy termination where could they find a more fitting mediator than he who had been so intimately associated with the Orient? The letter of John Paleologus, as also one which King Hugo wrote, were full of laudatory expressions of the marvels which the saintly Legate had wrought. These two epistles went far towards augmenting the confidence of Pope Innocent, already very great, in the energy and wisdom of this faithful prelate. Thus

he unhesitatingly made known his design of entrusting him with a second and more important mission to the Orient. Blessed Peter was not the one to paralyze the universally manifested inclination, neither was he—above all—given to weighing in the balance a sacred desire with his own particular tastes. He knew well that this appeal for a public benefit as expressed by legitimate authority should silence his own views, even in regard to *humility*. Besides his fervor had kept pace with the rich guerdon of spiritual benefits granted him from above. The recollection of the services which God had permitted him to render during his former mission impelled him to accept the position, but on a far greater scale, which would entail similar duties and trials. So far from asking a respite he found his pleasure and his recompense in the opportunity to serve the Church with renewed devotion, and declared his readiness to obey the wish of Christ's Vicar on earth.

Several Bulls were therefore issued. By one Blessed Peter Thomas was appointed universal and special Legate of the Holy See for all the dependent countries whether of the empire of