

Still more—the governor's wife was closely related to the chief promoter of the Cretan heresy. Was there not grave cause for apprehension that this relationship might influence the ruler until his animosity, already great, would lead him to extreme measures? But the saintly athlete feared rather to offend God by neglecting the least duty than he feared to contend with any earthly power whatsoever. Setting aside all human considerations, he landed at the city of Candia, the capital of the island.

The sentiments of the governor were certainly embittered by this bold proceeding. So far from wishing to honor, in the person of the Bishop of Coron, a worthy Legate of the Holy See—an ally of Venice even—he received him almost as a public enemy. Almost upon the instant, immediate payment for those above mentioned expenses of the fleet were demanded in the most threatening manner. But Peter Thomas, skillfully parrying the demand, succeeded in postponing the definitive appointment of the day when the sum must be paid. Meanwhile he diligently sought for the propagators of the heresy. Amongst the number, besides the relative of the governor's wife, were to be found bourgeois and nobles, all of whom were summoned to his presence without ceremony. There were, alas! many who had embraced the new heresy which was spreading with the rapidity of a blazing fire, or a pestilential contagion.

At the meeting, however, they presented a bold and insolent front, absolutely refusing to reply to the questions of the saint.

The Bishop of Coron, seeing through their idea, thought best to disband them, and submit them to a separate

investigation. His paternal kindness had no effect whatsoever. There remained but one resource—to appeal to the arm of the law.

It was the duty of the civil magistrates, fully recognized at that period by the Christian states, to lend all possible aid to the Church, but the representative of Venice, already incensed by the retarded payments—as above mentioned—assented to the suggestions of his wife to do all that he could to foil the efforts of Blessed Peter.

He never went near the latter except with evil intent, refused all concurrence whatever and went so far as to threaten him with imprisonment.

Thus encouraged, the heretics and their friends disseminated a fanatical agitation throughout the island, especially in the capital. They threatened with death not only the Inquisitor and those who accompanied him, but all the faithful clergy who had remained steadfast, and the Catholics of the Latin rite.

The Legate felt not the least anxiety at the rumors of the threatened misfortune with which the very atmosphere was permeated; but those who had, with him, braved the perils of the campaign were not so quiescent. They could not at first concur with their dauntless leader who had perfect confidence in our Lord and in the "Virgin most powerful." And then the thought of dying a martyr's death had for him no terror, but, on the contrary, brought joy to his soul. And, thinking that it should be the same with his friends, he represented to them that his urging them to accompany him to these scenes of danger was also inviting them to participate in the greatest glory, thus eventually, by his exhortations and example, over-