

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.

BY MISS S. X. BLAKELY.

CHAPTER XVIII.

BARNABO VISCONTI—"THE BEAR OF THE LOMBARDIAN ALPS."—HIS OUTRAGES
TOWARDS RELIGIOUS AND REBELLION AGAINST THE HOLY SEE—HIS
RAGE IN THE PRESENCE OF AMBASSADORS SENT TO TREAT
WITH HIM—HE FINALLY COWERS BEFORE A CARMEL-
ITE FRIAR, SOFTENED BY THE HONEY OF THE
SAINTLY PETER THOMAS.



OR at least a hundred years whatever proposal was formulated at the Court of Rome had been opposed by the family Visconti. And now, the first real obstacle which arose came in the

person of Barnabo Visconti, more formidable even than his ancestors. A brief recital of his evil deeds will prove the truth of this assertion. Upon the death of his uncle, in order to have sole possession of the title and estates, Barnabo poisoned one brother and forced another to abandon his interests and rights. Enraged at the odium he incurred, and the censure pronounced against him, he vented his wrath upon innocent persons, and

especially upon those in religion. His victims were cruelly tortured: a brazen receptacle burned away the lives of priests and monks, with a refinement of wickedness which almost surpassed belief. In absolute rebellion against the Holy See, the schismatic duke arrogated to himself spiritual power in his own domain. The Archbishop of Milan having one day acted in opposition to his will, he sent for him and forced him to bend his knee before him, saying with sacrilegious insolence, "Knowest thou not, insignificant creature, that in my own dominion I am King and Pope? I am more than emperor, nay more than God Himself!" Excommunicated by Innocent VI., he gloried in despising every menace which, in the name of religion or humanity, was addressed to him. His insatiate ambition even dreamed of the subjugation of all Italy. Already