

out-breaks of war, were never in favor of laying down their arms.

The Bishop of Patti hesitated not a moment in going to seek those formidable bands. Nothing seemed impossible to him, sustained as he was by an implicit faith in divine Providence, and fervent devotion to the Blessed Virgin. As a craven fear of death found no place in his brave heart, despite a thousand perils he passed through cities filled with the wild tumult of expected war; went over streams where, their bridges having been torn away, he, perforce, availed himself of hastily placed planks, or perhaps of a frail boat which seemed ready to sink beneath the waters to rise no more. He penetrated into the depths of forests, where dangerous foes were concealed in ambuscades so artfully covered that they could neither be seen nor guarded against, and all this was done in the hope of accomplishing his noble aim.

Such unparalleled heroism commanded the respect of the leaders and induced them to promise to temporize until his return.

Without a moment's delay, our undaunted hero pursued his course to the very battle field trodden by the two opposing armies, and succeeded in gaining speech with some of the Hungarian hussars. Influenced, perhaps, by the force of his determined will, they, not any too willingly, procured him an audience with King Louis. This good and able monarch, in whose veins flowed also the blood of France through the branch of the royal house of Sicily, received Blessed Peter with every mark of respect, and in a lengthy audience proved to be all that Innocent VI. had anticipated. The legate, having presented his letters of credit, told the sovereign of the great confidence placed in him by the Pontiff

and repeated the generous offers of the latter. The King responded most graciously. Returning thanks to the Holy Father, he loyally accepted the titles and subsidies offered to him. He begged the legate to convey to the Holy Father his appreciation of the latter's good opinion, as also the concurrence of a faithful servitor and the loving devotion of an obedient son.

From this time King Louis continued to overwhelm the holy bishop with every conceivable honor. He wished also to defray all his expenses. He sought every opportunity of conversing with him, and always consulted him, for he looked upon him as the wisest and most learned prelate he had ever met. It may be imagined, therefore, that before very long his animosity towards Venice grew less and less pronounced, and more amicable sentiments took possession of his heart.

The proud and fearless eagle, ready to swoop down from the Carpathian summit and bury its talons deep in the quivering flesh of the lion of St. Mark and harass the noble beast until he would be lashed to an impotent fury, was induced, at last, to remain inoffensive as an innocent dove. Under the influence of the Sovereign Pontiff, this Christian monarch permitted sweet charity to resume its sway, and proffered an armistice to be observed during the six succeeding months (from October, 1356, to March, 1357). The question of concurrence in granting the pacification of the Roman states, was also regulated to the entire satisfaction of the reigning Pontiff.

The fructification of these lovely virtues in the midst of a sterile soil charmed the sympathetic heart of our sainted hero, and encouraged him in