

# 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 IX.

THE RASCIENS—ENCOUNTER WITH PIRATES—A VIOLENT TEMPEST MIRACULOUSLY  
STILLED UPON THE DEEP BLUE WATERS OF THE ADRIATIC SEA—AUDIENCE  
WITH STEPHANOS—PERSECUTIONS ON THE PART OF THE  
SCHISMATICS—AND THOROUGH RE-AWAKENING OF  
CATHOLIC FAITH—1355.



THE belligerent and courageous race of the Slaves occupy a large portion of the eastern and central part of Europe. They are divided into numerous tribes each one of which, besides the designation of their common origin, has its own special name.

Baptized in the ninth century by St. Cyril, St. Methodius and St. Adalbert, they at one period formed a numerous and glorious band in the vast army of the militant Church. But, unfortunately, they permitted themselves, later on, to be led astray and many of them embraced the errors of the Greek Schismatics.

Those of their provinces along which flows the river formerly called "Rasca," a southern tributary of the Danube, were known collectively as "Rascia."

Stratimir, called also Stephanos, a name which seems to be dynastic, having subjugated the Servians and Bulgarians, had a short time previously arrogated to himself the title of "Emperor of Bulgaria." He had, at the same period, shaken off his allegiance to Hungary, whose vassal he had formerly acknowledged himself to be. Apprehensive, nevertheless, of experiencing the vengeance of Hungary's king, the usurper laid his plans for securing what allies he could, and having this in view he directed his efforts towards the then reigning Pontiff, whose influence was alike powerful and widely extended. The more readily to secure the desired result, he had artfully sought the good offices of the Sovereign Pontiff against the alleged machinations of Constantinople, whence, Stephanos maintained, the churches which still remained in communion with the true fold, suffered constant and serious annoyance. The ambassadors also insinuated that their master and the majority of the people,