

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 XIV.

IN CRETE AND AT SMYRNA—PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE CRETAN HERETICS—  
CANDIA IS PLACED UNDER AN INTERDICT—PUNISHMENT OF THE  
PRINCIPAL OFFENDERS—DEFENDER OF SMYRNA—1359.



NUMEROUS as the provinces might be, of which Peter Thomas had the care, not one of them escaped his watchful supervision, and no insidious foe was ever permitted to threaten any among them with impunity, so untiring was the holy Legate's vigilant solicitude.

A heresy, which can only be described by the word *abominable*, began to gain some vantage ground in Crete. It was therefore the *spiritual sword* which this time was to leap from the scabbard in the defense of the truth. The valiant knight of the Church hesitated not to leave unfinished, for a while, the work so happily begun, to hasten to Crete and undertake a mission more important than any in which he had as yet been engaged. For the principal mission of the Papacy is, as it has ever been, all through the long vista of ages, to guard and maintain intact the apos-

toxic faith, the most precious treasure that God can bestow upon man. It seemed, however, that disastrous results might arise from this voyage. The first adverse circumstance would be the absence of Blessed Peter from the Christian troops. The captains of the Venitian vessels, although the term of their engagement had expired, had promised to remain for some additional time in the service of the holy cause. Might they not, forgetful of that promise, or negligent, decide amongst themselves to depart? And even if they were willing to remain, and loyal to Blessed Peter, might they not be compelled to go, their leader being no longer there to command? Was there, then, any one so powerful, and, at the same time, so full of malice as to send them off? Yes, the governor of the island, whose authority extended over the affairs of Venice throughout the entire Levant, who would, beyond a doubt, exact immediate tribute for the prolongation of the service. And the pontifical treasury, so generously opened since the inauguration of the war, could not possibly respond to such a demand,