

“admonish them, that duly weighing the state of their affairs, which was now reduced to the utmost of danger, by the death of so many defendants, and for that there was no hope of relief left them; for he had had certain intelligence, that the Venetian fleet being oppressed with much sickness, and other difficulties, could not stir out of their havens: it might suddenly so fall out, that they might in vain intreat those fair conditions which they now refused; for he could no longer moderate the souldiers rage, who had made frequent demands, that they might be permitted to plunder the City, in reward of the labours and dangers which they had undergone. So as if they should delay surrendring the town, the ruine thereof would be attributed rather to their foolish obstinacy, than to the cruelty of the enemy.” Having quickly resolved to give an answer to these words, for the truce was to last but for two hours, they put an end to the parley, telling them onely, “That the souldiers and citizens were firmly resolved to defend the City with all their might, to the very last minute, and to keep loyall to their prince; so that whatsoever the event should be, nothing could be more desired of them, but better fortune, which they hoped they should not fail of, since they would not be failing to themselves, to their honour, nor to their religion, which, together with their safety, they had undertaken to defend.”

Thus having placed all their hopes in their arms, the governours thought good to feed the souldiers and people with hopes of succour, which did chiefly increase in them their resolution, and courage to defend themselves. Wherefore they made it be divulged by a renegado who was fled from the enemies camp to the City; that he had brought letters from Famagosta, which brought certain news of the arrival of the Christian fleet; which that it might be the more credibly believed, the captains which were upon the mountains with the Islanders, were ordered to give the sign of ten fires, which every one knew was to give notice to the City, that the Christian navy was arrived. This wrought such impression in some, as imagining that to be true which they did so much desire, they affirmed they saw the Turks begin to remove their artillery, and their pavillions. But the enemy who feared nothing lesse, continued their batteries, whereof nothing of remarkable issued for some days, save onely that Jacobo di Nores, Count of Tripoli, one of the chief Barons of the kingdom, who had won the name of being vigilant and valiant, was slain in an assault which was given to the bulwork Costanzo, and his brother Francisco Maria was in his place made governour of that bulwork.

Thus did the Turks waste those within by little and little, with frequent skirmishes: but they durst not enter upon the bulworks, for fear of mines; whereof they were the more cautious, by reason of the loss which they received at the expugning of Zighet. Moreover, Mustafa thought he had too few men to make a great efforte; for the Janisaries were not very forward to be the first that should fall on; wherefore he spun out the time, till such time as having more certain news of the enemies fleet, he might, (as he did afterwards) safely increase his army by those that remained in the gallies: who as soon as they were come to the camp, all fear of the fleet being over and the cawseys being now perfected, and rendred secure, which led from the trenches to the four bulworks of Podacataro, Constanzo, Davila, and Tripoli; he began to place all the commanders and souldiers in their proper employments, and gave an orderly assault at one and the same time with his whole forces to all the four bulworks, which the besieged interpreted to be done by the enemy as their last essay, with intention of departing suddenly, if they should not succeed therein. So great an impression had the news of the arrival of the Venetian fleet made in them, which being held by all to be true, they encouraged one another; affirming confidently that the victory, the end of their labours, and their safety from all danger lay in withstanding the fury of that assault.