

devoted themselves to strengthening the parapets, preparing shelters, making new platforms and repairing the wall. They threw all their strength and skill into their work: every hour had its toil, every day showed new improvements, new designs. They kept reinforcing their batteries with new guns cast on the spot, and the whole was transported to that part of the walls where they expected the attack. This was the special charge of Luigi Martinengo, Captain General of the artillery, under whom were six other chiefs in command of the force of Bombardiers: the order throughout being perfect. They prepared also fireworks to be used in various ways. The makers were skilled in these devices, which did good service. That they might not have to contend at the same time with the enemy and with inconveniences within, they expelled from the city all the useless mouths, perhaps eight thousand in all, who went to the villages without interference from the Turks. They next took a census of those who remained within the walls and found seven thousand able-bodied men, viz. three thousand five hundred Italian infantry, the rest being Greeks enrolled for service, some from the town, some from the country, men who earned in the siege an honourable name for loyalty and courage. The hope of fame and of ample reward was always present to inspire them in their defence, Marc'Antonio Bragadino, the Captain or Governor General of Famagosta, using great and praiseworthy diligence in this as in every other matter. Seeing the danger increase as the enemy drew nearer to the walls, Bragadino endeavoured with spirited speeches to establish the courage of the besieged, showing them that the time was come for them to make signal proof of that true valour to which for months past he had seen them inclined. No glory that warriors had earned in our age was greater than that which was reserved for them, in defending against the might of the Ottoman Empire a fortress so far from other Christian lands, and in preserving with it a flourishing kingdom from enslavement by barbarians.

Addressing himself to the Italian troops, he said—"Why, my brave comrades, have you come here from a far distant country, exposing yourselves to certain hardships and great danger in so long a voyage, if not to give fitting proof of your courage, and by surpassing merit to earn the supreme honours of warfare. Now indeed the very chance which you have so eagerly desired is put before you. Your endurance, your diligence, in short all the martial virtues have here the widest and noblest field: for this city is assailed and encompassed by foes of great repute, and the result of this siege is watched throughout the world with the greatest anxiety. But my confidence in you, citizens and others who are enrolled among our troops, is no less great; for you have given clear proof not only of loyalty and constancy, but of true courage, in performing with the zeal and skill of tried soldiers all your military duties. Your generous hearts will never allow that in the defence of what is your own, your wives, your children, your goods, others shall take the lead. With noble emulation each man will seek to have a larger share in the toil, to be the first to expose himself to peril. Do not let the enemy's numbers frighten you for a moment. They are certainly less than what we hear by report, or than what is indicated by a pompous array of empty tents. Most of them, or at least the bravest of them, are exhausted by toil, or have returned home to enjoy the riches acquired in the siege of Nicossia. What happened in that city should wake in you vigilance rather than alarm, for we know certainly that it was not the valour or industry of the enemy which gave them the victory, but the negligence of the besieged, who appear to have thought that walls alone, not the stout hearts of men, are the bulwarks of cities. The hope of the succour which we expect at once might give courage even to cowards, yet I would not have one of you fix your thoughts on this, lest it should detract from your daring somewhat of praise, for it is on yourselves that each man must