mended myself to my Christian fellow-captives, to encourage them to endure firm and brave in the faith. Then they took to binding certain Italians, and so went on fastening all the men in a line, and made us sit down.

The day after the capture of the city was held a general bazar or auction of the spoil. First were sold the good looking youths and pretty girls, the buyers taking no thought or count of their noble birth, but only of the beauty of their faces. The rest of the men were sold at extremely low prices, though something more was paid for those who were fit for work in the galleys. In the same day they made a division of the spoil, and I wondered much to see them sell some most precious gem for a very small sum. A thing worth a hundred sequins they gave for four: they knew as little about pearls and precious stones as pigs do: anyone who had some little knowledge bought valuable objects for next to nothing, and made a fortune. Then they began to outrage children and women, and such as were firm in their resistance they tortured and killed.

When Nicosia was invested the inhabitants were registered, and their number found to be six thousand five hundred souls: of these few were of any use as combatants. Once there were thirteen hundred Italians, but at a pinch these were only four hundred, for very many died before the siege, and the rest in the attacks. Cypriot nobles and burghers with their servants numbered fifteen hundred, foot soldiers raised in the city two thousand six hundred, those of Giacomo Zaccharia and Muscorno, who were villagers, seven hundred and fifty. There were the Stradiots, and the other cavalry of the feudatories and pensioners, and five hundred more regular cavalry, but they were not used. Though the city had had ammunition and victuals for a two years' siege it was badly administered, and the disorders, and the obstinacy of its commander reduced it to so disgraceful an end. The enemy on the other hand was working with a hundred thousand men, including the ten thousand cavalry, but not the twenty-five thousand men who were brought up from the galleys for the last attack. Some however said there were only four thousand horses, with many mares, and a great number of mules, saddled and equipped as horses, which served in action as well as the best horses; these they brought across on horseboats, lighters and *palandre*, two to each galley, the rest on ships and larger vessels. It was said too that the janissaries were only six thousand, and the sipahis only four thousand. If this cruel disparity of numbers, the fewness of our trained soldiers and our bad leadership should account for our easy defeat, let any soldier of skill and experience decide; and let such consider too how those who retired to Famagosta, where they had most prudent leaders and the best handling, in the company of the brave Italian soldiers behaved (as everyone says, and especially Count Nestor Martinengo in his report made to the Signory of Venice) like brave warriors, often risking their lives not only in sorties and sallies, but also in attack.

I know very well that for the shortcomings and sins of the people God sends such scourges, as saith the prophet Amos (ch. ix. 8), "Behold, the eyes of the Lord God are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from off the face of the earth." I know also how the sins of Princes are a cause of the ruin of kingdoms; as saith Isaiah (ch. xxiv. 1, 5), "Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty and maketh it waste . . . because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant." And Ecclesiasticus (ch. x. 8), "Because of unrighteous dealings, injuries and riches got by deceit, the kingdom is translated from one people to another."

But as all the world can see the justice, piety, and zeal in defending our holy faith of my august masters, the care with which they strive to make their dependencies obedient to Holy Church, the affection and courtesy they show to their vassals and subjects, their war