

against sin and hatred thereof may well excuse and defend them. I will dare however to say in defence of the just judgment of God, and His irreprehensible Providence, which willed such ruin and destruction, that satisfaction might be made to His justice, provoked by the disorders, disobedience and rebellion of this His realm, that God does as do temporal lords, sending armies against those who rise in gainsaying and revolt. As indeed it is clear that when there rose in rebellion against the Church of Rome, which is the Head of Christ's kingdom, the Patriarchal Church of Alexandria, the Church of Antioch, the holy Church of Jerusalem, and that of Constantinople, with all their members, speedily enough God sent as a scourge these infidel ministers of the Divine justice, who enslaved them all, changed their ceremonies into execrable superstitions, the churches into mosques, the Gospel into the Quran, destroyed their sway, laid low their dignity, profaned the sacraments, and left their faith entombed, so it behoved God to do to this kingdom, where there were sundry sects of old heretics, and Greeks too who swore fealty to the Holy Roman Church, as is evident in the Church of Alexandria. Yet when the most Reverend Archbishop Filippo Moccionico returned from the Council of Trent, and like a most watchful shepherd, with all diplomacy and modesty, urged them to accept the sacred Ecumenical Council of Trent, with no little warmth they refused to yield, and proved how deadly was the venom of disobedience hidden deep in their hearts. Everyone can see the hatred they bore to the dogmas of the Latin Church, and knows that they held it to be heretical. Hence they would not allow any Latin to celebrate upon their altars, but held their priests to be profane persons, and when the Chiefs of the State desired to hear mass in their churches, they made portable altars. And through all the time up to the siege what did not the poor Archbishop suffer! How he kept exhorting the Greeks, Armenians, Copts and Maronites, Jacobites and Nestorians! and yet many times these Greeks laid snares for him. Witness the arms which they carried under their cloaks to extirpate the Latins! They would never accept the Council nor its decrees, nor the eighth Council of Florence. Nay, the Greek bishop Loarà said to me openly, when I was sent by the said Archbishop to enlighten him and exhort him to obey our Holy Church, and fulfil his oath—"My son (he said) there are bounds set between us Greeks and you Latins, and the cures are divided between us and the flocks, so that on me lies the care of my Greeks, and on your Archbishop of the Latins. The eighth and ninth Councils were held concerning matters in question among you Latins, but they have nothing to do with us." Did not the Archbishop give him a citation to appear at Rome? But he came to Venice, and did not go on to Rome, the Signory sending him back boasting of the rich present it had given him. Did not God clearly visit him with His vengeance, and the punishment of his rebellion? For as soon as he returned to Venice he died suddenly, that this schism might not spread, although he said that he acted herein out of respect for the people. But God applied the better remedy. It is a just thing that the same crime should suffer the same punishment. Yet the crime was a happy one, for it brought to the birth that great and much desired, most necessary and most useful fruit, the signing of the Holy League. And when the dragon of the sea put on so great presumption, on October 7 of the next year he was taken with the hook of God's right hand.

The goodness of God failed not at sundry times and in divers manners to foretell this destruction of Cyprus. It was scourged for many years with such swarms of locusts that they ate even the stems of trees. In 1556, on the morning of St. Mark's day, He sent a terrible earthquake in the city of Limisso; in Famagosta too a whirlwind, which destroyed a palace and two other houses, and caught up some men from the street, and whirled them into the air, and let them fall on the roofs, and if it had not been quickly cut, as sailors use at sea,