

A true and most exact Narrative
of the Conquest and Defence of Famagosta
compiled by the Reverend Father, Fr. Angiolo Calepio, of Cyprus
a Doctor in Theology of the Order of Preachers,
at the instance of the Reverend Father, Fr. Stefano Lusignano,
a Reader in the same Order.

FRA ANGELO CALEPIO, OF CYPRUS, OF THE ORDER OF S. DOMINIC, A POOR DIVINE,
TO HIS COURTEOUS AND KIND READERS.

Be it known that the narrative of the conquest and defence of the city of Famagosta was compiled from the memoirs of many captains present in Cyprus at the defence of that stronghold, who are now in the prison and tower of the Great Turk, which I, being arrested in February 1572 by the order of Kilij Ali, as a spy of our lord the Pope, while I was in durance with them collected with all care: and this verified by themselves, and by the accounts of many other persons, I offer you as genuine and true, and lifted above every kind of passion. And thus I make an end, exhorting all to pray the Lord for me, and for those poor defenders who are still in captivity: and for you I implore every temporal comfort, and happiness in eternity.

From Bologna, November 10, 1572.

Immediately after the capture of Nicosia the naval commander Ali Pasha marched away and re-embarked his troops at Salines on September 11, 1570, when the fleet sailed for Cape della Grea. On September 18, Mustafa, General of the army at Nicosia, left a garrison in that city, and encamped before Famagosta. He was anxious to swallow up quickly the whole kingdom, of which Famagosta only remained unsubdued, and on the 23rd he caused a fort to be built near the little rock, to batter the city as well as the ships which were on our side. It was completed in three days, and on the 26th a few cannon shots were fired. On the 29th they built two other forts, one at the fountain of S. George, the other at Precipolla; on these they mounted a few pieces of artillery and on October 1 opened fire. Our men were prompt in harassing them, and on the 3rd the whole camp retired to the village Pomo d'Adamo, three miles away. The great galley of Mehmed Pasha, full of artillery and ammunition, was burnt about three miles off Famagosta. After this our troops made a sally on the 8th, and did their best to destroy the forts and trenches.

So far nothing had happened of particular moment, but on November 8 there arrived a Turk with two fine horses and a lady of Nicosia. Some people were afraid he had been sent by the Pasha with some mischievous intent: many however knew that he was flying for his life. A man of Famagosta was assigned to him as interpreter. The Turk got drunk, drew a knife which he had in his sleeve and killed him. For this murder he was hanged on December 7.

On the 30th the Turks brought four pieces of artillery to S. Alessio. On January 23, 1571, we descried four vessels with infantry and ammunition, and on the following morning twelve of our galleys and a frigate arrived, and landed the garrison, victuals and ammunition.