

D. O. P.

M. ANTONII BRAGADENI DUM PRO FIDE ET PATRIA
 BELLO CYPRIO SALAMINÆ CONTRA TURCAS CONSTANTER
 FORTITERQUE CURAM PRINCIPEM SUSTINERET LONGA
 OBSSIDIONE VICTI A PERFIDA HOSTIS MANU IPSO VIVO AC
 INTREPIDE SUFFERENTE DETRACTA

PELLIS

ANN. SAL. CIO.IQ.LXXI. XV. KAL. SEPT. ANTON. FRATRIS
 OPERA ET IMPENSA BYZANTIO HUC

ADVECTA

ATQUE HIC A MARCO HERMOLAO ANTONIOQUE FILIIS
 PIENISSIMIS AD SUMMI DEI PATRIÆ PATERNIQUE NOMINIS
 GLORIAM SEMPTERNAM

POSITA

ANN. SAL. CIO.IQ.LXXXVI. VIXIT ANN. XLVI.

To God the Best and Mightiest.

The skin of Mark Antony Bragadino, torn from him while alive and suffering fearlessly, by the faithless hand of the enemy, on the eighteenth day of August, in the year of our Salvation 1571, when, in the Cyprian war waged against the Turks for faith and fatherland, he was overborne in the long siege of Salamis, where he commanded with constancy and valour, was brought hither from Byzantium by the care and at the cost of his brother Antony, and laid here by his devoted sons Mark, Hermolaus and Antony, to the eternal glory of God most High, of their country, and their father's name, in the year of our Salvation 1596. He lived forty-six years.

When Leucosia and Famagosta were taken, and the citadel of Cerannia surrendered, access to the other towns and villages was easy enough. They had neither fortifications nor garrisons, and being unable to offer resistance yielded without parley to the Turks. They are all now under the rule of one Pasha, who resides at Leucosia and exercises the chief authority with a rank somewhat like our Viceroy. Not only is he supreme over the islanders, but over all their magistrates, Sanjaqs, Qadis, Subashis and soldiers, both horse and foot, and rules all according to the laws of the Turks. While we were in Cyprus the Governor was Jaffer Pasha, a Calabrian, of low birth and a renegade from Christianity, and like all such, intensely hostile to Christians. Besides the towns I have mentioned it is said there are still 850 villages (casali). These were populous enough in old times, and rich and prosperous, now the Turkish tyranny has left them deserted or thinly peopled. The principal are Lapithus, Cilarus, Carpassus, Lefcara, Constantinum, Limnati, Silica, Arnicia, Pellendria, Chilani, Colossus, Piscopia, Salines, Connelia, Orima, Serines, Arzus, Omodus, Crusocens, Solia, Morfu, Limissus and Lefca. Besides Turks, Moors and a few Jews the majority of the inhabitants are Greeks, who use the Greek language and written character, their dialect differing somewhat from that of Crete: they are Christians of the Greek rite. There are also Maronites, Nestorians, Jacobites and Copts, fugitives from Palestine, who were driven from the realm of Saladin after the capture of Jerusalem, and settled here, each sect still observing its own rites. The Turks, according to the statements of persons worthy of credit, number scarcely six thousand males, the Christians (always excepting women and children) twenty-