

Cyprus, but the inhabitants usurping their authority elected kings to themselves of their own generation: and so it continued till the last king of Cyprus, James the Bastard (marrying with the daughter of a noble Venetian, Catherina Cornaro) died without children, leaving her his absolute heir. And she perceiving the factious nobility too headstrong to be bridled by a female authority, like a good child, resigned her crown and scepter to the Venetian Senate, anno 1473. Whereupon the Venetians embracing the opportunity of time brought her home, and sent governors thither to bear sway in their behalf, paying only as tribute to the Egyptian Sultans 40000 crownes, which had been due ever since Meleksala [Melek el Ashraf, Seif-ed-Din] had made [Janus] of Cyprns his tributary.

It was under their jurisdiction 120 years and more, till that the Turks, who ever oppose themselves against Christians (finding a fit occasion in time of peace and without suspicion in the Venetians) took it with a great Armado, anno 1570, and so till this day by them is detained. Oh great pity! that the usurpers of God's Word, and the world's great enemy, should maintain (without fear) that famous kingdom, being but one thousand and fifty Turks in all who are the keepers of it. Unspeakable is the calamity of that poor afflicted Christian people under the terror of these infidels, who would, if they had armes or assistance of any Christian Potentate, easily subvert and abolish the Turks, without any disturbance; yea, and would render the whole Signiorie thereof to such a noble actor. I do not see in that small judgment which by experience I have got but the redemption of that country were most facile, if that the generous heart of any Christian Prince would be moved with condign compassion to relieve the miserable afflicted inhabitants. In which work he should reap (questionless) not only an infinite treasure of worldly commodities, that followeth upon so great a conquest, but also a heavenly and eternal reward of immortal glory. The which deliverance Ferdinando, Duke of Florence thought to have accomplished (having purchased the good will of the islanders) with five gallonnes and 5000 soldiers. Who being mindful to take first in the fortress of Famogusta, directed so their course that in the night they should have entered the haven, disbarke their men and scale the walls.

But in this plot they were farre disappointed by an unhappy pilot of the vice admiral, who mistaking the port went into a wrong bay: which the Florentines considering resolved to return and keep the sea till the second night, but by a dead calm they were frustrated of their nymes, and on the morrow discovered by the castle. Whereupon the Turks went presently to arms, and charged the inhabitants to come to defend that place. But about four hundred Greeks in the westpart, at Paphus, rebelled, thinking that time had altered their hard fortunes by a new change: but alas they were prevented, and everyone cut off by the bloody hands of the Turks; this massacre was committed in the year 1607. Such alwayes are the torturing flames of Fortune's smiles, that he who most affecteth her, she most and altogether deceiveth. But they who trust in the Lord shall be as stable as Mount Syon, which cannot be removed: and questionless one day God, in his all eternall mercie, will relieve their miseries, and in his just judgments recompence these bloody oppressors with the heavy vengeance of His alakeeing Justice.

In my return from Nicosia to Famogusta with my Trench-man we encountered by the way with some Turks, who needs would have my mule to ride upon, which my interpreter refused. But they in a revenge pulled me by the heels from the mule's back, beating me most pitifully and left me almost for dead. In this meanwhile my companion fled, and escaped the seleratness of their hands; and if it had not been for some compassionate Greeks, who by accident came by, and relieved me, I had doubtless immediately perished.

From the Fort and Citie Famogusta I embarked in a Gerno, and arrived at Tripoly, being 88 miles distant.