

VAN BRUYN.

Cornelis van Bruyn, a Dutchman, native of the Hague, left that city on October 1, 1674. His travels covered many parts of Asia Minor, the islands and cities of the Levant, Egypt, Syria, and Palestine.

On April 19, 1698, he arrived at Larnaca from Alexandretta, and wandered about Cyprus until May 26, when he left for Smyrna and Venice. There he resided nearly eight years, returning to the Hague on March 10, 1698. His voyages, in Dutch, were published at Delft in 1698, translated into French, and "done into English by W. T." London, 1702. The extracts, here translated afresh, are from pp. 378—388 of the fine folio edition printed by G. Cavelier, Paris, 1714.

On the morning of Easter Day, April 18, 1683, we saw the island of Cyprus. After mid-day the wind freshened, and in the evening we were abreast of Cape S. André. The 19th we saw Famagusta, and sailing briskly past Cape della Greca or S. Nappa, about three in the afternoon we anchored before Salina. I landed and went to Larnica or Larnacho, about a mile inland. There we went straight to the house of Balthasar Sovan, the French Consul, charged also with the Consulates of England and Holland. I made ready at once to see the island, and hiring two mules, with a man who knew the country, left Larnica at daybreak, April 22. Two hours later we arrived at the town of Piela, where we found the remains of a large building, and four small churches in the old style; a stream runs from the neighbouring mountains and supplies the town perennially with water. Beyond Piela we passed several other towns and villages, and some small churches of no importance, and about noon we reached a village Spigliotissa, where I was to stay, close to Famagusta. In the afternoon I went with two Greeks to see the outside of Famagusta, but as I got too near the Turks shouted to me from the walls to retire. I had to obey, and turning down to the seashore sat down on a little eminence to sketch the city as carefully as possible.

The next morning I returned to the city, which I had been unable to examine from the landside on the previous day. Nearly a third of it faces the sea, and the circuit must be quite half a league. It has two gates, one on the landside, another looking seawards. The ramparts, which are nearly perfect, are surrounded by a dry ditch, of considerable depth and cut in the rock. They are said to have been built after the fashion of those of Rhodes, but are very far behind them in beauty and magnificence. The mosque called S. Sophia seems very fine: it must indeed be as grand as its reputation. The pointed tower which crowns the building is highly ornamental. On the left of it is another mosque whose dome makes it very conspicuous. One can see the holes left by the cannon balls; half the church was destroyed in the siege.

The harbour lies along the walls of the fort. Its entrance is so narrow that vessels are obliged to take in their anchors, and galleys their oars. The Turks guard the city so jealously that no stranger is allowed to set foot in it, except perhaps when his Consul comes to salute the Pasha, who visits it occasionally with his galleys. Even the Greek inhabitants of the island dare not approach the ramparts, or if caught they run the risk of being forced to become Musalmans.

There are five villages round the city, some of them pleasantly situated among trees. There is much silk, and the trees are chiefly the white mulberry which give food to the silkworms. The yield is about eight thousand okes, or twenty thousand Dutch pounds.

On returning to Spigliotissa I was taken to see a subterranean church of the same name.