

his own subjects suspected of heterodoxy massacred, and then on the same grounds proceeded in 1514 to attack Shah Isma'il Safawi of Persia, and annexed Azarbaijan. In 1517-8 he turned against Egypt on the pretext that the Sultan of Cairo would not have friendly relations with him, and after three victories in three successive battles made himself master of all Syria and Egypt (and so became "Khalif" of the Muslim world from 1518 onwards, receiving from Mecca the banner of Muhammad): Diarbakr and Mesopotamia also submitted. Taken ill and suffering from infection of a wound in the back he died at Chiarsu, near Constantinople, the very place where his father had perished of poison at his hand, it was said.

At the age of about twenty years Sulaiman "the Legislator" began, 21.9.1520, his long reign which was to last to 6.9.1566. It was ushered in by the fall of Rhodes and withdrawal from that island of the knights of S. John in 1522, and the conquest of Hungary, while his general, the noted Khair-ud-Din "Barbarossa" subjugated the Barbary States on the coast of North Africa the same year. Happily, the attempt to take Vienna in 1529 failed. At the end of August 1537 Barbarossa appeared off Corfu, the island of which had already been ravaged, and large numbers of peasants carried off as slaves, and there was none to prevent his landing some 25,000 Turks: on the 31st he assaulted the citadel, while Sultan Sulaiman waited on the mainland opposite and sent across as reinforcements 50 galleys with many thousands more men. The Turks, however, were constrained by the weather and malaria to raise the siege, which lasted only 15 days, though they carried off some 16,000 Christian prisoners, reducing the population to a miserable remnant. A naval battle in the gulf of Preveza (Epirus) between Khair-ud-Din and the Christian allies under the Patriarch of Aquileia with the Papal galleys, Cappello with the Venetians, who fought like lions, turned to the advantage of the Cross; but in 1539 the Venetians resolved to make a truce, and then peace, ceding their possessions in the Morea.

In 1542 Sulaiman began his third campaign against Hungary, and by 1548 the Emperor Ferdinand as the price of a truce for five years surrendered to the Turks Hungary, Transylvania, and an annual tribute of 30,000 ducats.

Following intermittent frontier hostilities between them, in 1553 Sultan Sulaiman in person at the head of a great force turned his arms against Persia; but in 1554 he returned to Constantinople, having accomplished nothing solid and wasted men. As the ambassador Trevisiano saw it, the expedition was

"a crowning mercy and respite for Christendom . . . as far as can be discerned with sound judgment, it has been a work allowed by our Lord God to free Christendom from the final ruin, with which it was threatened in the future, and perhaps rather to humble the spirit of those Turks so terrible to our people for many years past, in which they have always beaten them in battle and put them to flight . . . so that the name of the Turk has become so formidable that at the mere sound of it the whole Occident is dismayed. . . ." ¹

The Sultan died while once more conducting operations in Hungary.

The eight years' reign of Selim II (6.9.1566 to 12.12.1574) saw Cyprus invaded and Nicosia taken—he claimed the island on the ground that it had formed part of the Byzantine empire—though the Venetian fleet was numerous: Famagusta, the last town to surrender, capitulated 18.8.1571. The Venetian commandant in Corfu, however, bombarded the Turks in Durazzo.

On 4.9.1571 Don John of Austria, natural brother of Philip II of Spain, anchored off Corfu, joining with Spanish reinforcements under the Marqués of Santa Cruz the allied Christian fleet: as generalissimo he forbade anyone on board to go ashore on pain of death. On 7.10.1571 the fleet (its other contingents were Papal under Marcantonio Colonna, Genoese under Doria, and Venetian under Barbarigo) came on the Turkish armada under Mu'izzud-din-Zadeh' Ali in the strait of Naupaktos (or Lepanto, as the Italians call it) which connects

¹ Vat. Arch. Fondo Pio, 235. *Relatione del Sr. Dom. Trevisiano, ambasciatore, tornato da Constantinopoli, l'anno, 1554.*