

without payment or at a fair price. Actually, after the naval battle off Preveza (Epirus) previously mentioned, in 1539-40 the republic, considering its interests betrayed, made a separate and costly peace with the Turks, for some of its possessions were ceded, and it paid tribute for the islands that remained.¹ In 1555 articles of peace were signed between the Pope and King of Spain after the war over Naples. Though Philip II almost all through his long reign 1556-98 was at war—with England, or in that struggle with his subjects in the Netherlands (the rebellion of 1566 ending in Holland seceding in 1579 as a “Commonwealth of the United Provinces”) which exhausted Spain—and on the other hand much occupied with the affairs of the vast new realms of the Spanish crown in the New World, devoted churchman that he was, he was never lacking in any effort to establish the Faith *in partibus infidelium*: and, when that great Pope, Pius V (7.1.1566 to 1.5.1572) had been elected, it was not long before a strong combination was formed under his inspiration to challenge the Turkish advance. With the descent of the Turks on Cyprus in 1570 there was reason enough to move Venice to make common cause once more with the Holy See. Evidence may be noted in the references to, and account of the “League concluded and Articles of the year 1570 (May 25th)” beginning:

“As our most Holy Father, having received news that the most savage Tyrant of the
“Turks has invaded the island of Cyprus with a great war array . . .”²

and also in one account of the “Negotiations and proposals made in the Congregations held in Rome to settle the Capitulations for the League against the Turks between Pius V, the king of Spain and the Republic of Venice in the year 1571,”³ with

“Cardinals Morone, Cesis, Grassis, Aldobrandino, Alessandrino to represent the Pope: for
“the king of Spain, Cardinals Granvelle and Pacheco and Don Juan de Zuñiga, his ambas-
“sador: for the Venetian republic the ambassador Soriano, and at the end also Soranzo.
“To remove the difficulty over precedence in speaking the Pope summoned the ambassadors
“and handed them, so that it should be examined, a sealed statement of articles proposed,
“viz. to the end that the League should be perpetual, offensive, defensive—that it should
“be directed against the Turk and his dominions, although *the Spaniards wanted that there*
“*should also be specified the Sufi*” (i.e. the king of Persia), “the Moors, Tunis, Tripoli and
“Algiers. . . .”

There is further evidence in the ‘Articles of Capitulations between His Holiness Pope
‘Pius V and the Grand Duke of Tuscany for the fitting out of the twelve galleys of his
‘Highness for the object of the League, in March 1571’:⁴ in the ‘Instructions sent to the
‘papal legate in France, so that that country should also enter the League against the
‘Turks’:⁵ in the ‘Manifesto of the Pope to the Republic of Venice in re the Armada of the
‘League.’⁶

All this was work of organization and superintendance which was to lead up to that magnificent fleet sailing out under those famous captains of great name, Don John of Austria, Marcantonio Colonna, Giovanni Andrea D’Oria, for the decisive victory of Lepanto. Hereunder is given a parallel, but entirely different account of the launching of that campaign—by the Venetian ambassador and delegate Soriano—to show, on the one hand, how Pope Pius indisputably directed the councils of the delegates and, on the other, how uncertain and divided in 1571 was the militant attitude of Christendom towards Persia.⁷

¹ See *Catholic Encyclopaedia*, VIII, 563 c.: XIV, 264 c.: XV, 338 c.

² *Vide* Vat. Lat. 12205, Misc. Arm. XI, 149, p. 211.

⁴ *Idem*, p. 207.

⁵ *Idem*, reference to *liber* 33, fol. 49.

³ *Idem*, p. 231.

⁶ *Idem*, reference to *liber* 36.

⁷ *Vide* Fondo Chigi, II, 48, pp. 1-80 in Vatican Library, *Trattate conclusioni della lega contra il Turco tra Papa Pio Quinto, Re Cattolico et Signoria de Venstia del Sigr. Michele Soriano 1572.*