

"We do not doubt but that both by letters and messages from many people the report  
 "itself will at length reach You of a remarkable and most glorious naval victory, hitherto  
 "unheard of in the memory of man, which the allied Christian princes by the grace and  
 "aid of the Almighty and most perfect God obtained in the fight which was joined near the  
 "Gulf of Corinth against a very strong and numerous fleet of the most terrible and fierce  
 "despot of the Turks, Selim the Ottoman, on the nones of the month of October last past.  
 "Nearly three hundred galleys of the enemy, excellently built and equipped, together  
 "with their commanders, all their soldiery, sailors, rowers, with their war material also  
 "and all their cannon being in part captured, in part sunk, cut to pieces, routed and  
 "utterly destroyed, very few escaping by flight from the battle. This indeed You will  
 "understand to have been done by Divine Providence.

"For last year, when not without immense sorrow We heard that Selim with his unbridled  
 "and insatiable greed for seizing other people's property (having for the sake of his innate  
 "lust for ever wider domination broken the treaty, which had been entered into not long  
 "ago by his father Sulaiman with Our beloved son, the noble Doge, and the illustrious  
 "republic of Venice and afterwards had been ratified and confirmed by him on his having  
 "attained to the most vast and formidable power of that empire) had most shamelessly  
 "violated all laws of human and Divine justice and invaded the kingdom of Cyprus, the  
 "ancient peaceful possession of the Venetians, with soldiers gathered together from all  
 "sides, that he had with all the force of arms cruelly stormed the towns, plundered and laid  
 "them waste, for the due fulfilment of the charge of the pastoral office laid on Us by Divine  
 "Providence We considered that We must not delay to exhort vehemently in the Lord,  
 "counsel and entreat the Christian princes, and especially Our dearest son in Christ,  
 "Philip the Catholic king of the Spains, particularly pre-eminent and prosperous among  
 "the rest from the size of his realms, the number of his doughty subjects, and the magnitude  
 "of their huge wealth, to join with Us and the Venetians themselves, and that of one accord  
 "with united forces We should strive to hold back the madly raging Tyrant and repulse  
 "his nefarious enterprises.

"By this surely praiseworthy and beneficial counsel of Ours, by Our constant labours,  
 "continued vigilance, tireless care and patience, by God's favour the desired issue has been  
 "carried through and we have struck up an alliance between us no less desirable than  
 "necessary, to the praise and glory of the Divine Name: not that willingly We resort to arms  
 "and wars, for We are fosterers of peace and particularly zealous for it, but so that We may  
 "crush and beat down the swelling necks of the proud.

"So great, therefore, and so wonderful a victory, as We have said, having been brought  
 "about (not only for Christians but indeed for the kings and princes of the whole world  
 "and most of all for You too, striving most keenly because of the ancient and implacable  
 "hatred for the Ottoman race inherited from Your nearer and remoter forefathers, if You  
 "shall not allow this opportunity to pass), We considered that it was right that You should  
 "be informed at once with a view to the future and clearly, and for Your and Our common  
 "advantage We earnestly recommend You to be willing to take the present occasion  
 "offered suddenly by Divine Providence, and boldly and briskly to follow and embrace  
 "smiling fortune, better than which will never occur, since at the very first opportunity  
 "a strong army should be drawn up by You, and the enemy invaded from those eastern  
 "frontiers, so that, while he lies stupefied and in consternation at the severity of the disaster,  
 "it may be powerful enough to pay back somewhat and make good the damage and insults  
 "too often deeply branded and inflicted by that wild beast of an Ottoman on the most  
 "illustrious kings of the Persians, and that You may exert Yourself to get back and recover  
 "Mesopotamia and Assyria, provinces which not so long before were subject to You and  
 "which at one and the same onslaught were most unjustly seized by force by Sulaiman and  
 "occupied. And indeed it can easily so turn out for You, since We do not consider that  
 "Selim, as he has now lost command of the whole sea and is broken by the incredible  
 "disaster of the defeat, when You would be fighting with all Your might in that quarter,