

payre to the common house and there to elect them a speaker, or theyr common mouth, and to certifie the lorde Chauncellour of the same, whyche should thereof make report to the kynges moste noble grace, whyche should declare hys pleasure when he would have hym presented before hys personne. Thys was the cause of the Parlyament he sayd, but surely of these thynges no worde was spoken in the whole Parlyament, and in effect no good acte made except the graunt of a greate subsidie were one, but accordyng to thys instruccion the commons departed to the common house and chose for their speaker sir Thomas Moore knight and presented hym the saterday after in the Parlyament chamber, where he accordyng to the old usage disabled hymselfe both in wit, learnyng, and discrecion, to speake befor the kyng, and brought in for his purpose how one Phormio desired Hanniball to come to his readyng, whyche thereto assented, and when Hannyball was come, he began to reade, *de re militare*, that is of Chivalrie, when Hannyball perceived hym, he called hym arrogant foole, because he would presume to teache hym whych was master of Chivalrie, in the feates of warre. So the speaker sayde, if he should speake before the kyng of learnyng and orderyng of a common welth and such other like the kyng beyng so well learned and of suche prudence and experience might say to hym as Hannyball sayd to *Phormio*. Wherefore he desired hys grace that the commons might chose another speaker: The Cardinall answered, that the kyng knewe his witte, learnyng and discrecion by long experience in his service, wherefore he thought that the commons had chosen him as the moste metest of al, and so he did admit hym. Then sir Thomas Moore gave to the kyng hys moste humble thanks, and desired of hym two petitions: The one, if he should be sent from the commons to the kyng on message and mistake their entent, that he might with the kinges pleasure resort againe to the commons for the knowledge of their true meanyng: The other was, if in comunicacion and reasonyng any man in the common house should speake more largely then of dutie he ought to do, that all such offences should be pardoned, and that to be entred of recorde, whiche two petitions were graunted, and so thus began the Parlyament and continued as you shall heare.

Because an evil chaunce happened to the great rebuke of
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The Oration
of Sir
Thomas
More.

THE XIII.
YERE

[1522-23]

The Rhodes
besieged.

Why the turk
coveted the
Rhodes.

al christen princes, I entend briefly to declare the same miserable chaunce. In the beginnyng of this yere Sul-ton Solyman Pac called the great Turke which was but the viii. of the ligne of Ottoman, the first that toke upon hym to be a great capitain or ruler. And to whom Sultan Selyme his father had lost thempyres of Constantinople, Trapesonde, Alexandry, and Babylon, with many divers kyngdomes and realmes: whiche Sultan Solymon the yere before had gotten thee towne of Belgrado beyng the key of Hungary. Because he sawe all the greate princes in Christendome now at discord, thought it moste for his honor and profite to make warre on the Isle of the Rodes and to take the same, which Isle had been kept by the space of CC.xiiii. yeres by the brethren or knightes of the order of saint Johnes of Jerusalem. Dyvers thynges moved him to take this enterprice. One was because this Isle stode so that the religious of the same oftentimes toke and destroyed his shippes as they came with golde and other riches from Egypt Sirie and other Est parties to Constantinople, so that by theim of that Isle he sustayned more hurt then by all Christendome, because the sayd Isle stode in the entry toward Constanti-nople. Another mocion was because his father when he died charged hym to assay to take the Rhodes for to be re-venge of the shame that they had done to hys graundfather Mahomet the great Turke which was with dishonor beten from the siege of the Rhodes. But the greatest occasion of all was the exhortacion of a great counsailer of the religion called Andrew Admiral borne in Portyngale, whiche knew the whole estate and in what case the tounne stode in: The cause why this Andrew Amyral bare malice to his religion, was because after the death of Frier Fabrica de Laretto lord master of their religion, he was not elected to that honor, but one Philip de Vylliers de Lisle Adam of Fraunce was named to be lord Master, wherfore the said Andrew provoked the Turke to come to the Rhodes.

The great Turke seyng so great an occasion offered and desiryng honor, and also knowing the fortresse of the Rhodes to lacke municions (for surely the brethren of the sayd order wer both of suche wealth and pride and also lived after suche an ungracious and ungodly fashion, that they toke neither hede of their vow and solempne profession, nor also did forese the thyng to come, so that the greate welth of them and
their

their evil living blinded them, so that they thought the Turke durst not ones attempt to set on their garrison, and so they being elevate in this point of pride, left their town unfurnished and so were suddenly surprised as you shall here) wherefore the said Turke covertly provided for iii. C. saile, in the which he carried all his artillery and all other things necessary: in the which army were lx. M. myners and pyoners prepared for the only intent to digge and mine. All the rest of the army of the Turke came by land to a place called Fysco, which standeth so directly against the Rhodes that a fyre may be seen from the one side to the other, from the which place the Turke sent letters to the abovenamed Philip de Vylliers lorde Master of the said religion signifyng to him that he would have the said Isle for great damage that they had done to him and his people, and if they would yeld to hym the said Isle, he promised on his faith and by Mahomet his fyrst prophet, they should have no damage nor hurt by hym, and that they that would depart should go in safetie, and they that would tary and serve him should have good wages and if they refused thys to do, he sware that he would subvert the walles of their fortresse and destroy them all and make them slaves, which letter was dated at Constantinople the first dai of June. The said Lord Master and his compaignie were greatly abashed at this letter, but yet lyke hardy gentlemen they intended to defende them, and made all the preparacions that they could do in so short a space, and wrote to all princes christen of their nede and distres. But the Turke like a wyly serpent knowyng the great devisioun amongst the christen princes, so that he knewe that they could sende no succours to the Rhodes, sent CC. M. Turkes which arrived in the Isle of the Rhodes on Mydsomer dai, which was the feastfull daye of the Rhodians in honor of Saint Jhon baptiste which suddenly commyng sore abashed the Rhodyans being but vi. C. knightes and v. M. other mete to beare armes: yet of noble courage and trusting in God, they determined to defende the enemies of God, and the xxviii. day of July the Turke arrived there in his awne persone, which much encouraged his people.

When the Turke was arrived, he bent his ordinaunce toward the town and did no great harme, when he sawe that the walles were of that defence that ordinaunce did
little

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The
mountes.

litle harme, he caused all his Pyoners to cast yearth, one banke over an other still tyl they came within a bow-shot of the wall, and although that many of the pyoners were slain with ordinaunce of the toune, they never ceased tyll they had made a banke of yearth hygher by x. foote then the wall of the toune, and there they layde their ordinaunce, so that no persone durst styrre on the walles or Bulworkes, and thus with mountaines of yearth was the toune environed and behynd the mountaynes lay the Basheaux and chief capitaines of the Turke whiche were ever ready to take their advauntage, and dayly they shot into the toune and bet doune houses and slewe the people in the streates, for they upon this mount myght easely see into the toune. Besyde this, the Turke caused so many mynes to bee made in divers places, that they within were not able to make countermynes for lacke of people, inso-muche as wemen were set a worke to dygge and cary, by reason wherof a greate part of the walles were over-throwen, and if they within had not made countermynes the toune had bene gotten within a short space.

The Mynes.

The assautes.

Also the Turkes in September gave to the Rhodyans foure greate assautes lyke valiaunt warriers, but the Christen men within, so valiantly defended them, that at every assaute they lost at the lest ii. M. men, and at the fourth assaute they lost x. M. Turkes and more.

The greate Turke seyng the losse of his men at the assautes, sent for Monstaffa Basshaw, through whose counsail he toke on him this enterpryce and much blamed hym that he had made hym beleve that he might have the toune within xii. dayes or in a moneth at the most, wherefore in that furie he would have put hym to death, if the other Basshawes had not entreated for him: but in conclusion the Turke determined clerely to rayse his siege and to departe, and so had done if that same night syr Andrew Amyrall that you heard of before and a Jewe beyng within the Rhodes had not written letters and shot them out on quarelles into the Turkes army. By whiche letters the Turke knewe the necessitie of the toune and feblenes of the people, whyche caused hym to change his purpose. But this treason was espyed, and the traytors taken and put to terrible execucion. And the Turke caused so many Mynes to bee made, that although some tooke none effecte,

Treson
espied.

yet

yet by some he overthrewe bothe Bulwarkes, walles and towers, so that he myght entre into the toune: and so on saint Andrewes even he caused a greate assaute to bee geven, whiche was very fierce, but yet the Christen men so valiauntly defended them, that they slewe thre thousande Turkes and mo, and kept them from enter yng that daie, but the Citezens of the Rhodes after this assaulte, came to the lorde Master, and praied hym to have compassion of them, their wives and children, and shewed him that if the toune were taken by assault, (as it was like to be) that thei al should be cruelly murdered, the lorde Master muche regarded his honour, and comforted the people with faire wordes, but by chaunce about the same tyme, the great Turke sent a letter into the Rhodes, willyng them to deliver the toune, and they all should have their lyves and goodes, and they that would tary, should tary in quiet, and thei that would depart should savely depart.

When this letter was knowen, then the people cried out on the lorde Master, to take the offre, wherfore he calling all his counsaill together seyng that it was not possible to kepe the toune longer, both for lacke of artilary and vytayle, and also because his nomber was so minished, that scace he had souldiers to kepe the walles, wherfore he by greate advice determind to take the Turkes offer, and so sent to hym twoo of his religion, for the farther conclusion and assuraunce of the same, whiche well entertained them, and had wrytynges sealed of all thynges that they desired, to which two knightes, Aymeche Basshaw sware by his faith that there was slayn at the siege lxiiii. thousande Turkes, and xl. thousande dedde of mortalitie and mo.

And so on Christmas daie, the great Turke hymselfe entered into the Rhodes, and toke possession therof, and the lorde Master and all his religion, the first daie of January tooke shyp and sailed to Candy, and so in conclusion came to Rome, and there declared his chaunce and adventure. Thus was the toune and the isle of the Rhodes, taken by the great Turke, whiche was a great succour to all christian men, resortyng into the East partes of the world, whiche chaunce was muche lamented thorowe all Christendom, and much blame put in all Princes, because they sent no succoure nor aide to the Isle.

And this yere the byshoppe of Duresme died, and the
kyng

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The yeldyng
up of the
Rhodes.

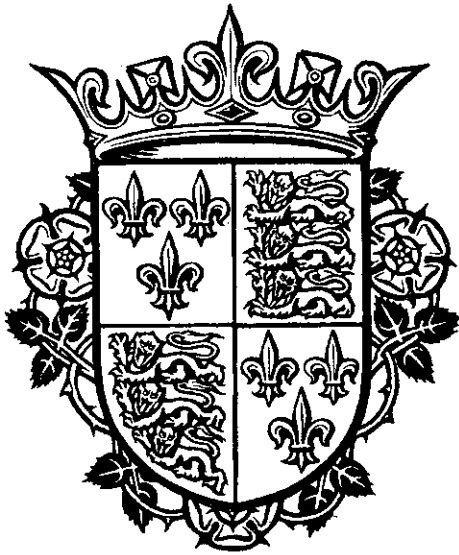
THE LIVES OF THE KINGS

HENRY VIII

BY EDWARD HALL

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
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