payre to the common house and there to elect theim 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 Parly-
ament 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
accordying to thys instrucion 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 accordying to the old usage
disabled hymselfe both in wit, learnyng, and discretion, 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 order-
yng 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. Wherfore he
desired hys grace that the commons might chose another
speaker: The Cardinall answered, that the kyng knewe his
witte, learnyng and discretion by long experience in his ser-
vice, 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
thankes, and desired of hym two peticions: 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 communicacion 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 pardonned, and that to be entred of recorde, whiche
two peticions were graunted, and so thus began the Parly-
ament and continued as you shall heare.

Because an evil chaunce happened to the great rebuke of
al christen princes, I intend briefly to declare the same miserable chaunce. In the beginnyng of this yere Sulton Solyman Pac called the great Turke which was but the viii. of theligne of Ottoman, the first that toke upon hym to be a great captain or ruler. And to whom Sultane Selime hisfather had lost thempyres of Constantinople, Trapesonde, Alexandry, and Babylon, with many divers kyngdomes and realmes: whiche Sultane Solimon the yere before had gotten theetowne of Belgrado beyng the key of Hungary. Because hesaw all the greate princes in Christendome now at discord, thought it mooste forhis 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.xiii. yeres by the brethren or knightes of the order of saint Johnes of Jerusalem. Dyvers thynge moved him to take this enterprice. One wasthere because this Isle stode so that the religious of the same oftentymes 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 them of that Isle he sustayned more hurt then by all Christendome, because the sayd Isle stode in the entry toward Constantinople. Another mocion was because hisfather when he died charged hym to assay to take the Rhodes for to be revenged of the shame that they had done to hys grandfather 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 Andrewe Admiral borne in Portyangale, whiche knew the whole estate and in what case the toune 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 desirynge honore, and also knowing the fortresse of the Rhodes to lacke municions (for surely the brethren of the sayd ordere both of suche wealth and pride and also lived after suche an ungracious and ungodly fashion, that they toke neither heede of their vow and solempne profession, nor also did forese the thynge to come, so that the greate welth of them and
their evil livyng blinded them, so that they thought the
Turke durst not ones attempt to set on their garrison, and
so they beyng elevate in this point of pride, left their toune
unfurnished and so wer sodainly surprized as you shall
heare) wherfore the sayd Turke covertly provided for iii.
C. saile, in the whiche he carried all his artillery and al other
things necessary : in the which armye wer lx. M. myners
and pyners prepared for the only intent to digge and myne.
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 fyer may be seen from the one side to the
other, from whiche place the Turke sent letters to the
abovened Philip de Vylliers lorde Master of the sayd
religion signifiyng to him that he would have the sayd Isle
for great damage that they had done to him and his people,
and if they would yeld to hym the sayd Isle, he promised on
his faith and by Mahomet his fyrst prophet, thei should have
no damage nor hurt by hym, and that thei that would depart
should go in safetie, and they that would tary and serve him
should have good wages and if they refused thyss to do, he
swere 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 commaignie 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 al princes christen of
their nede and distres. But the Turke like a wyly serpent
knowyng the great devision amongst the christen princes,
so that he knewe that they could sende no succours to the
Rhodes, sent C. M. Turkes whiche arrived in the Isle of
the Rhodes on Mydomer dai, which was the feastfull daye
of the Rhodians in honor of Saint Jhon baptiste whiche
sodain commynyng sore abashed the Rhodyans beyng but vi.
C. knihte and v. M. other mete to beare armes : yet of
noble courage and trusting in God, they determined to
defend the enemies of God, and the xxviii. day of July
the Turke arrived there in his awne persone, whiche muche
encouraged his people.

When the Turke was arrived, he bent his ordinaunce
towards the toune and did no great harme, when he sawe
that the walles were of that defence that ordinaunce did
little
litle harme, he caused all his Pyoners to cast yearth, one banke over an other still tyll they came within a bowshot 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 styrrre 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 advantaghe, 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 overthrown, and if they within had not made countermynes the toune had bene gotten within a short space.

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 enterprice 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 chaunge 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, yet
yet by some he overthrew 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
gyen, whiche was very fierce, but yet the Christen men so
valiantly defended them, that they slewe thre thousande
Turkes and mo, and kept them from enterying that daie,
but the Citezens of the Rhodes after this assaute, came to
the lorde Master, and praised hym to have compassion of
them, their wives and children, and shewed him that if the
toune were taken by assaute, (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
words, but by chaunce about the same tyme, the great
Turke sent a letter into the Rhodes, willyng theim 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 callying
all his counsaill together seyng that it was not possible to
kepe the toune longer, both for lacke of artillery and vytyale,
and also because his number was so minished, that scace he
had soldiers to kepe the walles, wherefore he by greate
advice determined to take the Turkes offer, and so sent to
hym twoo of his religion, for the farther conclusion and
assurance of the same, whiche well entertained them, and
had wrtynges sealed of all thynges that they desired, to
which two knightes, Ayneche Basshaw sware by his faith
that there was slayn at the siege lxiii. 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 con-
clusion 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 Christen-
dom, 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