

hold at Lagosta and the Narenta's mouth. They retaliated on the Latin towns of the coast, and the latter, unable to obtain help from their natural protector, the Greek Emperor, placed themselves under the suzerainty of the Venetians, whom they implored to intervene once more. The Croatians, to whom the towns in the northern and central parts of the country had paid tribute, now declared war on all who obeyed the Venetians, ravaged the territory of Zara, and attacked the islands of the Quarnero. The Ragusans were then tributary to the Serbs, by whom they were surrounded, and fearing the Narentans, who were so close at hand, separated their cause from that of the rest of Latin Dalmatia, and maintained an ambiguous attitude.<sup>1</sup> The Croatians, not content with terrorising the towns, sent ambassadors to Venice to demand the tribute; but the Doge replied: "Non per quemlibet nuntiorum tributum remittere curo; sed ad hanc persolvendam dationem venire ipso non denegabo." He at once fitted out another expedition on a large scale, which set forth under his command on May 9, 1000.<sup>2</sup> It reached Ossero on June 5, and the Doge claimed the homage of the Dalmatians as their protector; this was paid both by the Latins and by a number of the Slaves. He then

<sup>1</sup> *Num Ragusini ab omni jure Veneto a saec. X usque ad saec. XIV immunes fuerunt*, thesis by the Abbé Paul Pisani, Paris, 1893, cap. ii.

<sup>2</sup> According to Johannes Diaconus, the expedition started in the seventh year of Orseolo's reign, which would be the year 998; but Monticolo, who edits that writer in his *Cronache Antichissime* (p. 156, note 1), observes that Diaconus says that he only heard the news of the victory when the Emperor Otho III. came to Pavia in his third descent into Italy, *i.e.* July 1000.