

the Ragusan historians flourished in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, and wrote with the express purpose of combating all Venice's claims over Ragusa.

But, as before, the surrender did not greatly affect the internal affairs of the city, which continued to be managed by the citizens themselves. Nor did Venetian suzerainty last long. The campaign against the Eastern Empire ended most disastrously; the fleet was decimated by disease, and returned to Venice in 1172 a complete wreck. Venetian influence in Dalmatia was greatly reduced in consequence, while that of the Empire revived proportionately, and lasted until Manuel's death in 1180. The country was, however, regarded as still in a measure connected with Venice, and in the treaty of peace which the latter made with William of Sicily in 1175 he promised not to invade "the lands which are under the rule of the Doge of Venice and of the Venetians,"<sup>1</sup> and Dalmatia was included among these.

In the meanwhile Ragusa was developing international relations of a different character, *i.e.* with the Slavonic principalities of the interior. In the earliest times Ragusan territory was limited to a small part of the actual city, and for a long time did not extend beyond the walls. Constantine Porphyrogenitus informs us that it bordered on the two states of Zachulmia and Tribunia. The vineyards of the Ragusans were on the territory of these tribes, and the citizens paid a yearly tribute of thirty-six *numismata* (gold pieces) to the Prince of Zachulmia, and as much to the Prince of Tribunia.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Liber Pactorum*, ii. p. 117, v.

<sup>2</sup> *Op. cit.*, cap. 30.