

the Dalmatian coast-line did fall once more under Venetian domination, but was lost again to Hungary in 1358. Venetian supremacy in the Adriatic and the monopoly of the Levant trade was challenged by the rival Republic of Genoa. It looked as if Venice were about to lose all she had gained from the Fourth Crusade; severe Venetian defeats, as at Curzola, where Andrea Dandolo lost his life and Marco Polo was taken prisoner, brought the victorious Genoese up to the Lido, and in sight of Venice itself. But the great Venetian victory and capture of the Genoese fleet at Chioggia, in 1380, gave the Republic the final victory, and by 1420 she was firmly established on the whole Dalmatian littoral, except at Narenta and Ragusa, which remained tributary to the Ottoman Turks, who were now about to open that long series of struggles in which Venice and Dalmatia played the part of bulwark for Christianity against Islam,—the Crescent against the Cross. The settlement of 1420 was known in Venetian history as the *acquisto vecchio*.

But no sooner had Venice settled the question of seaboard Dalmatia, first by purchasing the cities from Ladislas of Naples, King of Hungary, in 1409, and by concluding a peace with Sigismund, after the Emperor's troops under Pipo Župan had