

Regis Cales duabus vicibus videlicet vtraque vice iij s.—vj s. per breue predictum.

Et in vno passagerio et vno farecost pro passagio predicti Comitiss lx. personarum et lxv. equorum suorum predictorum, supradicta secunda vice, de Douorr. versus dictam villam Regis Cales conducto, videlicet pro predicto passagerio lxxij s. iij d., et pro predicto farecoste xlvj s. viij d.—vj li. per breue supradictum.

Et in batellagio predicto lx. personarum de terra vsque nauem, dicta secunda vice, in predicto portu Douorr., videlicet pro qualibet persona ij d.—x s. per breue predictum.

Et in portagio eorundem ibidem, videlicet pro qualibet persona j d.—v s. per predictum breue.

Et in batellagio lx. personarum predictarum de Navi vsque terram, dicta secunda vice, in predicto portu Cales videlicet pro qualibet persona j d.—v s. per idem breue.

Et in pontagio lxv. equorum suorum predictorum in predicto portu Douorr., dicta secunda vice—ij s. per breue predictum.

Et in pontagio equorum predictorum in predicto portu Cales, eadem secunda vice—ij s. per breue supradictum.

Summa vadorum et expensarum predictorum—cclvj li. xvj s.

Et habet superplus—cl li. ij s. viij d.

### *The Mad Duke of Naxos.*

SUBSEQUENT historians of the duchy of Naxos have accepted without question Hopf's<sup>1</sup> chronology and brief description of the reign of Francesco III Crispo, who was formally proclaimed duke, after a brief Venetian protectorate, in October 1500. According to the German scholar, who is followed by Count Mas Latrie,<sup>2</sup> Francesco III 'quietly governed' his island domain down to 1518, the only incident in his career being his capture by Turkish corsairs while hunting in 1517. His wife, according to the same authorities, had already predeceased him, having died 'before 1501.' But a perusal of Sanuto's *Diarii* shows that all these statements are wrong. Francesco III, so far from 'quietly governing' his subjects, was a homicidal maniac, who murdered his wife in 1510 and died in the following year.

We first hear of the duke's madness in 1509, when he and his brother-in-law, Antonio Loredano, were on board the ducal galley, then engaged in the Venetian service at Trieste. The duke was put in custody at San Michele di Murano, but was subsequently released and allowed to return to Naxos.<sup>3</sup> There, as we learn from

<sup>1</sup> *Geschichte Griechenlands*, apud Ersch und Gruber, *Allgemeine Encyclopädie*, lxxxvi. 166; *Chroniques gréco-romaines*, p. 482; *Veneto-Bysantinische Analecten*, p. 414.

<sup>2</sup> *Les Ducs de l'Archipel*, p. 18, in the *Venetian Miscellanea*, vol. iv.

<sup>3</sup> Sanuto, *Diarii*, viii. 828, 837, 855, 866.

two separate accounts, one sent to the Venetian authorities in Crete by the community of Naxos, the other sent to Venice by Antonio da Pesaro, Venetian governor of Andros, the duke had a return of the malady.<sup>4</sup> On 15 August 1510, he was more than usually affectionate to his wife, Taddea Loredano, to whom he had been married fourteen years and who is described by one of the Venetian ambassadors as 'a lady of wisdom and great talent.'<sup>5</sup> Having inveigled the duchess to his side 'by songs, kisses, and caresses,' he seized his sword and tried to slay her. The terrified woman fled, just as she was, in her nightdress, out of the ducal palace, and took refuge in the house of her aunt, Lucrezia Loredano, Lady of Nio. Thither, in the night of Saturday 17 August, her husband pursued her; he burst open the doors, and entered the bedroom, where he found the Lady of Nio and her daughter-in-law, to whom he gave three severe blows each. Meanwhile, on hearing the noise, the duchess had hidden under a wash-tub; a slave betrayed her hiding-place, and the duke struck her over the head with his sword. In the attempt to parry the blow, she seized the blade in her hands, and fell fainting on the ground, where her miserable assailant gave her a thrust in the stomach. She lived the rest of the night and the next day, while the duke fled to his garden, whence he was induced by the citizens to return to the palace. There, as he sat at meat with his son Giovanni, he heard from one of the servants that the people wished to depose him and put Giovanni in his place. In a paroxysm of rage, he seized a knife to kill his son; but his arm was held, and the lad saved himself by leaping from the balcony. The duke tried to escape to Rhodes, but he was seized, after a struggle in which he was wounded, and sent to Santorin. His son Giovanni IV was proclaimed duke, and as he could not have been more than eleven years old—his birth is spoken of as imminent<sup>6</sup> in May 1499—a governor of the duchy was elected in the person of Jacomo Dezia, whom we may identify with Giacomo I Gozzadini, baron of the island of Zia, who is mentioned as being present in the ducal palace at Naxos, in a document<sup>7</sup> of 1500, whose family had a mansion there, and who had already been governor in 1507. From Santorin, Francesco III was removed on a Venetian ship to Candia, where, as we learn from letters of 15 August, 1511, he died of fever.<sup>8</sup>

Meanwhile, on 18 October, 1510, it had been proposed at Venice that the mad duke's brother-in-law, Antonio Loredano, should be sent as governor to Naxos, with a salary of 400 ducats a year, payable out of the revenues, just as Venetian governors had been

<sup>4</sup> Sanuto, *Diarii*, xi. 393, 394, 705.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* ii. 701.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Hopf, *Gozzadini*, apud Ersch und Gruber, *op. cit.* lxxvi. 425; lxxxvi. 166.

<sup>8</sup> Sanuto, *Diarii*, xii. 22, 175, 503.

sent there during the minority of Francesco III. Loredano sailed on 16 January 1511 for his post, where he remained for four and a half years.<sup>9</sup> Naxos, in his time, cannot have been a gloomy exile, for we hear of the 'balls and festivals with the accompaniment of very polished female society' which greeted the Venetian ambassador.<sup>10</sup> We do not learn who governed the duchy between July 1515, when Loredano returned to Venice, and the coming of age of Duke Giovanni IV, which seems to have been in May 1517. On May 6 of that year he wrote a letter to the Cretan government, signed *Joannes Crispus dux Egeo Pelagi*, which Sanuto has preserved;<sup>11</sup> and in the same summer *il ducha di Nixia, domino Zuan Crespo*, was captured by corsairs while hunting, and subsequently ransomed<sup>12</sup>—an adventure which Hopf, as we have seen, wrongly ascribed to Francesco III.

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### *The Merchant Strangers' Post in the Sixteenth Century.*

In my paper on the 'Early Posts in England'<sup>1</sup> reference was made to a post to the Continent set up by the alien merchants, or merchant strangers, in London in 1514. The date was taken from the report of the secret committee of the House of Commons on the Post Office, 1844, but it is not impossible that the post originated in one of the provisions of the treaty of 1496 known in later times as the *Intercursus Magnus*. It was stipulated in that treaty that

Omnes Mercatores tam Regni Angliæ etc. quam etiam Mercatores Terrarum et Patriarum Brabantie etc. . . . necnon eorum Factores, Familiares, Negotiorum Gestores et Ministri potuerunt deinceps per Terram pedestres, aut equestres, aut alio modo quocunque . . . cum suis bonis et Merchandisis, secure et libere ire et venire invicemque communicare et mercari, emere et vendere et commercium facere et habere . . . de Calesiis et marchiis eorum ac in aliis quibuscunque partibus Regni Angliæ.<sup>2</sup>

These alien merchants, who sometimes described themselves as merchant strangers of the intercourse residing in London, enjoyed valuable privileges which excited the envy of many of the citizens, who naturally resented the bestowal upon foreigners of advantages denied to themselves. There is an instance of this in the bill of complaints presented by John Lincoln, a broker, to Dr. Ball, who was appointed to preach the Easter Tuesday Spital sermon in 1517; in this bill it was alleged that the common artificers of London could scarce get any work, so great was the number of artificers

<sup>9</sup> Sanuto, *Diarii*, xi. 450, 525, 748; xii. 175; xx. 854, 856, 876.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* xvii. 35.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* xxiv. 380, 384, 387-8.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.* xxiv. 467, 596, 645; xxv. 158, 185.

<sup>1</sup> *Ante*, vol. xviii. 713-8.

<sup>2</sup> *Tractatum Pacis et Intercursus Burgundiae*, Rymer's *Fœdera*, xii. 578.