

STUDIES IN THE
HISTORY OF VENICE

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STUDIES IN THE HISTORY OF VENICE

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VOL. II



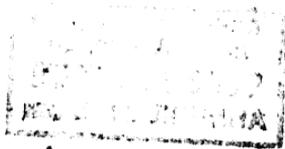
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Venetian Diplomacy at the Sublime Porte during the Sixteenth Century

VENETIAN diplomacy during the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries was recognized as the fullest and ablest in Europe. The despatches addressed to the "Doge and Senate," or on rarer but more important occasions to the "Chiefs of the Council of Ten," fill many rooms in the storehouse of the Frari, and have furnished, and continue to furnish, to students of all nationalities, a rich and varied and sometimes piquant picture of the condition of Europe generally. Despatches were sent as a rule once a week; but at a crisis, or if some matter of moment called for fuller attention, they follow each other in daily succession and occasionally number three and four a day. When we remember that Venice kept her agents in every capital of the small Italian states and at the court of every sovereign in Europe, that she received reports from Russia, Turkey, Italy, Spain, France, England, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, we can understand that little of moment escaped the meshes of her diplomatic service, and that the Venetian ambassador became the accredited source of information—if authorized to give it—especially on the affairs of the East, where Venetian interests largely lay.

The Republic was served diplomatically by agents of varying rank—ambassadors extraordinary, called