

Venere, was granted in fief to the Genoese by the emperor Frederick I.; a grant which was recognized by their neighbour Count Raymond of Provence, in a charter which gave them —‘podium et montem Monaci, cum suis pertinenciis ad incastellandum.’ This cession was renewed by the emperor Henry IV., on condition that the Genoese would build a castle at Monaco, for the better defence of the Christians against the Saracens.

Hitherto no building had occupied the heights of Monaco, except a chapel, which had been built on the site of the ancient temple in 1078, by two inhabitants of La Turbia. But in consequence of the grant to Genoa, three galleys from thence, containing a number of noble Genoese citizens, with one Fulco di Castello at their head, and followed by galleys laden with timber, iron, and other materials for building, disembarked at Monaco on June 6, 1191, when, having defined their rights in the presence of the imperial commissioners by making the circuit of the desolate rock with olive boughs, they erected a fortress, with four towers and circular walls, around which a new town soon began to spring up.

From 1270—1340 the citadel of Monaco served as a refuge alternately to Gueffs represented by the Grimaldi, and to Ghibellines under the guidance of the Spinola. Each party twice besieged the other within its walls, and each was twice supplanted by its opponents. On the Christmas Eve, however, of 1306, while all the inhabitants (Monégasques) were celebrating their solemn midnight mass, Charles Grimaldi contrived to enter Monaco disguised as a monk, and, having cut the throats of the sentinels, to let in his accomplices; and from this period, with the exception of eleven years (1327-38) the place remained in the hands of the Grimaldi, of whom Rubella Grimaldi bought a formal investment of his rights from Genoa, for twelve hundred gold florins. In 1346, Charles Grimaldi I. purchased part of Mentone from Emmanuele Vento of Genoa, and Roccabruna from Guglielmo Lascaris, Conte di Ventimiglia, for 161,000 florins; the rest of Mentone being bought by another branch of the Grimaldi family.

Many are the romantic incidents in the history of the Grimaldi princes—of Regnier Grimaldi (1363—1407), the brave partizan in turn of popes and antipopes; of Jean I. (1424-54), who was covered with glory in a great naval victory over the Venetians and married to the daughter of the Genoese doge Tommaso Fregosa

as a reward, but who afterwards was the first Prince of Monaco who did homage for his dominions to the Duke of Savoy; of Jean II. (1493—1505), murdered by his brother Lucien; of Lucien (1505-23), who successfully withstood a siege by the Genoese, and was murdered in his palace by his nephew Bartolommeo Doria of Dolceacqua; of Hercules (1589—1604), who sought the Spanish protectorate which has left so many traces in the patois of the neighbouring mountain villages, and who was summarily drowned in front of Monaco by citizens whose daughters he had insulted; of Honorius I. (1604-62), who exchanged the protectorate of Spain for that of France; of Honorius III. (1731), who married the beautiful Catarina Brignole, niece of the doge of Genoa, and who died at the beginning of the great Revolution, in which his family lost their sovereignty for twenty-one years.

‘When the empire of Napoléon I. was being re-divided by the European powers, the principality of Monaco was given back to the Matignon-Grimaldi. They restored their fortunes in the person of Honorius V., through his cruel extortions from the people whom he treated as his serfs, by confiscating to his own use the property of the communes, hospitals, and churches, and by seizing the monopoly of commerce of every description, constituting himself at once the only farmer, miller, butcher, and baker of the principality.

‘Whenever the municipal police of Genoa prohibited the sale of some damaged corn, the prince’s contractor immediately bought it up, declaring that it was only too good for the people of Monaco. If any good corn was by chance found in the warehouses at Monaco, it was immediately *exported to be resold*, and worse grain bought in its place. The price of this horrible bread rose till it became double that in any other place; then the people addressed a petition to their prince. His only answer was a threat of severe punishment, and the declaration that he would rule them with a rod of iron, “*qu’il ferait peser sur eux un bras de fer.*”

‘Any attempts of the unhappy inhabitants to obtain bread from Nice, were frustrated by the cordon of surveillance drawn around the principality, and all such signs of rebellion were immediately punished. Even travellers, passing through Monaco,