mies, the reputation of Pepin, or the civil divisions among themſelves ; their animosities were laid aside, and a strict union formed against the common enemy ; the chief com­mand was given to Valentin, as Obelerio was ſuppoſed too nearly allied to Pepin to fight with that good-will and cheerfulneſs the ſervice of his country required. The Venetians, notwithstanding the most obstinate defence, the most vigo­rous sallies, and their selling every inch of ground at an in­credible expence of blood, were at length reduced to that part of the city ſouth of the Rialto ; this stream, and their own bravery, being now their only defence. While Pepin was preparing to lay a bridge over the canal, they reſolved, as a last effort, to attack Pepin’s fleet, and to vanquish or die in defence of their liberty. Embarking all the troops they could ſpare, they bore down, with the advantage of the wind and tide, upon the enemy, and began the attack with ſuch fury, as obliged the French admiral to give way. The lightneſs of their ships, and the knowledge of the soundings, gave the Venetians every advantage they could wish : the enemy’s fleet was run aground, and the greater part of their troops perished in attempting to escape ; the ſhips were all, to a few, either taken or destroyed. During this action at ſea, Pepin reſolved to assault the city by land, not doubting but the garriſon was ſo weakened by the num­ber of forces they had ſent on board the fleet, as to be able to make but a slight resistance. Having for this purpoſe thrown a bridge over the Rialto, he was marching his troops acroſs it, when he found himſelf attacked on every side by the Venetians from their boats, and others who had ported themſelves on the bridge. The battle was long, bloody, and doubtful, until the Venetians employed all their power to break down the bridge; which at last yielding to their obstinate endeavours, a prodigious slaughter of the French enſued : however, they fought like men in deſpair, seeing no hopes of ſafety but in victory ; but all communication being cut off with the troops on ſhore, they were to a man either killed or drowned. The number of slain was ſo great, that the space between the Rialto and Malamoc was covered with dead bodies, and has ever since gone by a name expressive of the prodigious slaughter. Pepin was ſo struck with the intrepidity of the Venetians, that he raiſed the siege, abandoned the enterpriſe, and concluded a peace with the republic : he afterwards came to Venice to intercede for Obelerio, that he might be restored ; which the Vene­tians granted, more out of respect to the request of ſo great a prince, than love to the unhappy Obelerio. The people had a notion that Obelerio had encouraged Pepin to declare war upon the republic, and that a correſpondence between them was carried on during the siege ; Pepin was therefore no ſooner withdrawn, than the populace ſeizing upon Obelerio, tore his body in pieces, and scattered his limbs and bowels about the city. His wife shared the same fate ; for as ſhe was the sister of Pepin, it was not doubted but her influence was the cauſe of her huſband’s perfidy.

In 839 we find the Venetians engaged in an alliance offensive and defensive against the Saracens with Michael the Greek emperor. A fleet of 60 galleys was immediately equipped, who joined the Grecian fleet and engaged the enemy ; but during the heat of the engagement, the Greeks having baſely deſerted their allies, the Venetians were ſo com­pletely defeated, that ſcarce a single vessel remained to carry the news of their misfortune to Venice. This defeat threw the city into the utmost consternation, as it was not doubted that the Saracens would immediately lay siege to the capi­tal ; but from theſe fears they were soon relieved, by cer­tain intelligence that the Saracens had gone to Ancona, which they had pillaged and destroyed. The Narentines, however, a piratical people, no ſooner heard of the defeat of the Venetians, than they laid waste the coasts of Dalmatis, and ravaged the country for a considerable way ; at the same time that the city was distracted by internal dissensions and tumults, in one of which the doge was murdered.

It was not till the year 881 that the Venetian affairs were thoroughly re-established. By the prudent and vigorous administration of Orſo Participato the power of the Saracens was checked, the Narentines utterly defeated, and peace and domeſtic tranquillity restored. From this time the republic continued to flouriſh ; and in 903 her reputation for arms became famous all over the world by a great victory gained over the Hunns, who had invaded Italy, de­feated Berengarius, and threatened the country with total destruction. For a long time after, we meet with no re­markable transactions in the Venetian history ; but in ge­neral the republic increaſed in wealth and power by its in­defatigable application to maritime affairs and to commerce. About the year 1040 it was ordained that no prince ſhould associate a colleague with him in the supreme power, a statute which has ever since continued unaltered.

Towards the cloſe of the 11th century, Venice began to make a very considerable figure among the Italian states, and to carry on wars with ſeveral of them. In 1084 the republic was by the emperor of Constantinople inverted with the ſovereignty of Dalmatia and Croatia, which, however, had been held long before by right of conquest. As icon as the Croiſade was preached up, the Venetians fitted out a fleet of 200 sail against the infidels; but before this armament was in a condition to put to ſea, war broke out with Pisa. The doge Vitalis Michael took upon him the command of the fleet, when, after having defeated the Piſans in a bloody action at ſea, he set sail for Smyrna, and from thence to Aſcalon, at that time besieged by the Christians. To his valour was owing the cohquert of this city, as well as thoſe of Caipha and Tiberias ; but before he had time to push his good fortune further, he was recalled on account of an invasion of the Normans of Dalmatia. Here he was equally succeſsful : the Normans were everywhere defeated ; and Michael returned home loaded with booty ; but died soon after, to the great grief of all his subjects. He was ſucceeded by Ordelapho Faliero, under whom the Venetians assisted Baldwin in the siege of Ptolemais, and are said to have been the chief instruments of its conquest ; and Bald­win, in recompenſe for the ſervices of the republic, invested her with the ſovereignty of that city, which he endowed with many extraordinary privileges, in order to render his preſent more valuable. This good fortune, however, was overbalanced by a rebellion in Dalmatia and Croatia, The former was reduced ; but, in a battle with the Croatians, the doge was killed, and his army entirely defeated : by which diſaster the Venetians were ſo much diſpirited, that they clapped up a peace on the best terms they could, gi­ving up all thoughts of Croatia for the preſent.

Under the government of Domenico Micheli, who ſucceeded Ordelapho, the pope’s nuncio arrived at Venice, and excited ſuch a ſpirit of enthusiaſm among all ranks and de­grees of men, that they strove whoſe names ſhould be firſt enrolled for the holy war. The doge, having fitted out a fleet of 60 galleys, sailed with it to Joppa, which place the Saracens were at that time besieging. The garriſon was reduced to the last extremity when the Venetian fleet ar­rived, ſurpriſed, and defeated that of the enemy with great Daughter ; ſoon after which the Saracens raiſed the siege with precipitation. Tyre was next besieged, and ſoon was obliged to capitulate ; on which occasion, as well as on the taking of Aſcalon, the Venetians shared two-thirds of the ſpoils. But in the mean time the emperor of Conſtantinople, jealous of the increasing power and wealth of the