

# A PICTURESQUE TALE OF PROGRESS

By Olive Beaupré Miller

Assisted by Harry Neal Baum  
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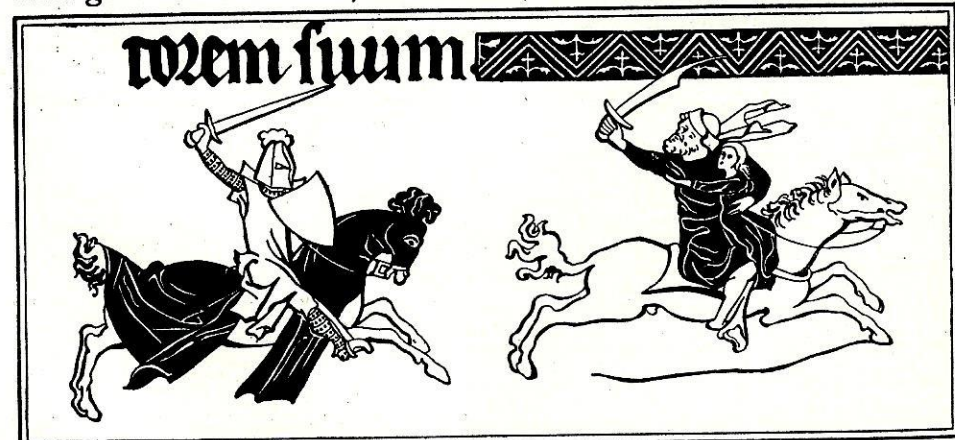
## NEW NATIONS

PART II

### Later Crusades

For a hundred years, Christian and Moslem lived peaceably side by side, with only one interruption. In 1144, Zau'gi, a Moslem ruler attacked and took Edessa, and news of the fall of Edessa aroused the people of Europe to undertake the Second Crusade. Louis VII of France and Conrad III of Germany led great armies to the Holy Land, but the Germans were led astray and almost annihilated by the Turks in Asia Minor. When the Crusaders at last laid siege to Damascus, there were traitors among the Christians; the Kings, having lost the advantage of a favorable camping spot, accused each other of treachery and went off home in a huff. Thereafter, it was difficult to arouse any enthusiasm, and the crusading-fire rapidly cooled in the West.

So far the Crusaders' kingdoms had been allowed to endure because the Moslems were fighting each other; but Zaugi had begun the work of uniting his scattered people. Mu'red-din followed Zaugi; and then arose the greatest and best-loved of all Moslem warriors, Sal'a-din, the ideal Saracen, a devout but generous soul, hostile to unbelievers, regular in prayer and fasting; and yet a lover of children, kindly and gentle to women; courteous, honest, brave and sincere.



A crusading knight pursues a turbaned Saracen, who is running away with a Christian woman. (Queen Mary's Psalter.)



Saladin was a Kurd of Armenia who had gone to Egypt to assist an uncle fighting under the banner of Muredin. A spirited leader of men, he won great victories, and when his uncle died he became commander of the army, and conquered all of Egypt. He then



Portrait of Saladin, prince of Saracen chivalry. Saladin, however, was not a Turk, but a Kurd; and the Kurds were an independent, upright people living in southern Syria, quite unlike the cruel, treacherous Turks. (Persian miniature, before 1185.)

advanced into Syria where he was acknowledged Sultan, and soon he had surrounded the Kingdom of Jerusalem.

Now there was at this time a truce between the Christians and Moslems; but a certain Reg'i-nald of Châ'til'lon' beheld a rich Saracen caravan pass beneath the walls of his castle, and being overcome with greed, he fell upon it and plundered it. Saladin thus realized that the Christians could not be trusted, and he set out to punish them soundly.

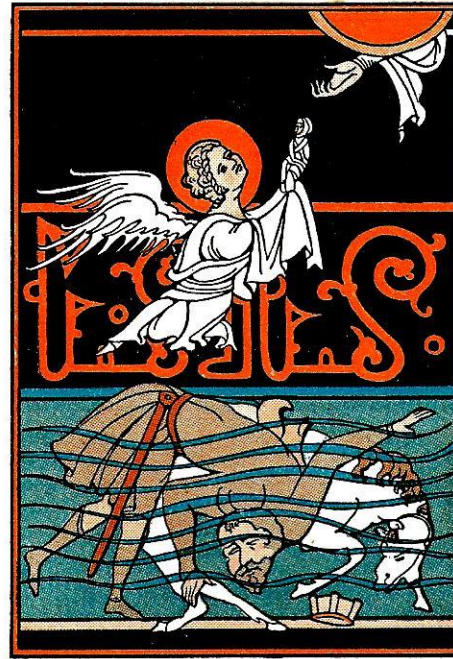
In face of this danger, the Christians united for common defense. But Raymond of Tripoli had quarreled with the other leaders, and when he offered good advice, they stoutly refused to follow it, taking position for battle in the most unfavorable place. The Battle of Hattin which followed, proved to be the destruction of Christian power in the East. Saladin pressed on in a rapid campaign, capturing Christian strongholds until he took Jerusalem in the year 1187.



Frederick Barbarossa marched overland through Hungary, so wild a land that a path had to be cut. (MS., Bern.)

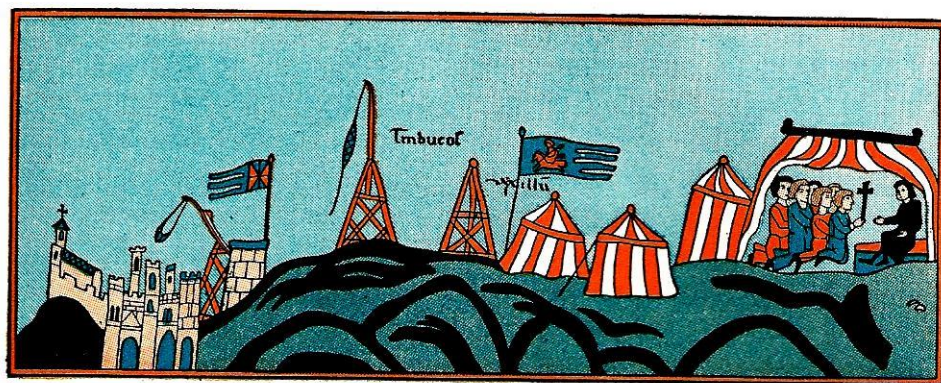
The fall of the Holy City caused the Third Crusade. The three greatest kings in Christendom vowed that they would not rest until Saladin was beaten, and Jerusalem taken from the Moslems. These three kings were Frederick Bar'ba-ros'sa, Emperor of Germany, Philip Augustus, King of France, and

Richard Coeur de Lion, King of England. Frederick was an old man, nigh on seventy years, but he thrilled to the call of arms like a spirited old war-horse. Summoning his vast army of turbulent German knights, he made his way by land, cutting a road through the forests of Hungary and Bulgaria, and so reaching Asia Minor; but here, alas, he was drowned while crossing a swollen stream; his leaderless army broke up, many nobles returned to Germany, and only a pitiful remnant ever reached Palestine.



The drowning of Barbarossa. An angel with wings tenderly bears his little soul to Heaven. (MS., Bern.)





Siege of a city with war-engines and tents, as used by Richard the Lion-Hearted and Philip Augustus. (MS., 1227 A.D.)

The French and English kings, meantime, planned to travel together by sea; but little love was lost between them. Richard was a burly warrior, who longed for booty and glory, and was at heart an adventurer far more than a King.



Like Richard the Lion-Hearted, this knight of the later Crusades has learned from the Arabs to adorn shield, lance, and gorgeous horse-blanket, with his symbol. Upper left, a Genoese merchant-ship. (Miniature, 1227 A.D.)

Philip, on the other hand, was slightly formed and wily, a diplomat and statesman, but certainly not a warrior. He took the Cross for fear people would say bad things about him if he should refuse; but he hoped to fulfill his vow and go home very soon. Richard and Philip had once joined hands to fight against Richard's father, the mighty old Henry II; and Richard had promised to marry Philip's sister, Alais, to whom he had been betrothed since he was three years old. But when Henry II died and Richard became King of England, he turned against his friend Philip. They barely patched up their quarrel to start on the Third Crusade, and when they arrived in Sicily their anger flamed up at white heat. Each said the other was greedy and cruel, and Philip, in a rage, left Richard on the island, packed up bag and baggage and went on his way alone. But the very day that he left, Richard's lady-mother, Eleanor of Aquitaine, arrived quite unexpectedly with a beautiful young princess, Ber'en-ga'ri-a of Navarre. Straightway the blonde giant, Richard, forgot all about Alais; he lost his heart to his mother's ward, and could think of nothing else. Taking the two women with him, he sailed off to capture Cyprus, and there with pomp and ceremony he wedded fair Berengaria, celebrating his nuptials with a mighty eating and drinking, and a mighty display of gold plates.

When news of this merry wedding reached Philip in Palestine, his anger was still more inflamed by this insult to Alais; nevertheless, he consented to accept the help of Richard in pounding the walls of Acre which had fallen into Saracen hands. Under the siege-engines Acre was forced to surrender, and into the city rode Richard and Philip.

But, with this task accomplished, the two kings quarreled anew; Philip said he was sick, he would really have to go home! And he sailed away to attack Richard's French possessions, and plot with his brother John.

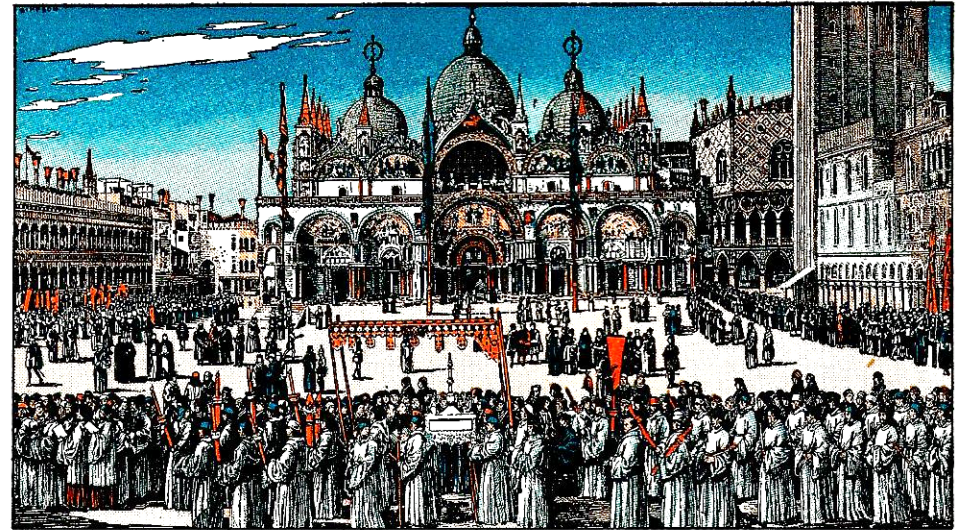




Ivory chessmen in the form of English knights. All bear shields with the owner's devices. (12th cent., British Museum.)

Richard, thus left to himself, plunged into every battle, wherever the fight raged most hotly, swinging his terrible mace and laying the Saracens low. Arab mothers began to say to naughty Arab children: "Be good or Richard will get you!" For his terrible prowess in battle men called him the "Lion-Hearted." Saladin greatly admired him, and when he was ill of a fever the courteous Arab leader sent him a gift of fruit, and snow to cool his head. The two leaders never met, but each admired the other and looked upon the other as a courteous, chivalrous foe.

But Richard received little help from the French and German knights, and even his own English followers at last grew tired of the struggle. Moreover, news came from England that Prince John and Philip Augustus were planning to seize the throne. Saladin, too, was tired of the war and ready to make a truce. He would not give up Jerusalem, but he agreed that Christians should have free access to the Holy Places. So Richard the Lion-Hearted set sail again for England, to be taken prisoner on the way by one of his old foes, and kept shut up in a castle for many a weary year. The Third Crusade was ended. Acre had been taken, but Jerusalem still remained in the hands of the Moslem foe.



Religious procession in the Piazza of St. Mark's, Venice, showing St. Mark's Cathedral, the ornate and colorful. Venice, romantic city of bridges and canals, grew up under Byzantine influence and belonged to Constantinople, till her *doges* made her independent. Much Venetian architecture is pure Byzantine. (Painting by Bel-li'ni, 1496).

The popes continued to urge that Christians retake Jerusalem, and in 1202, a number of French knights decided to start on a Fourth Crusade. Since they wished to go by sea, they engaged the necessary ships from the rich republic of Venice, Queen of the Adriatic. Founded by fleeing Venetians, driven to the lagoons and mud-isles of the sea by Gothic and Hunnic invaders in the fifth and sixth centuries, Venice had grown magnificent, a great sea-faring city, lifting the richly-carved palaces of wealthy merchant-princes from all her hundred islands, spanning with quaintly arched bridges the canals that formed her streets, and sending forth fleets of ships to sail the Mediterranean.

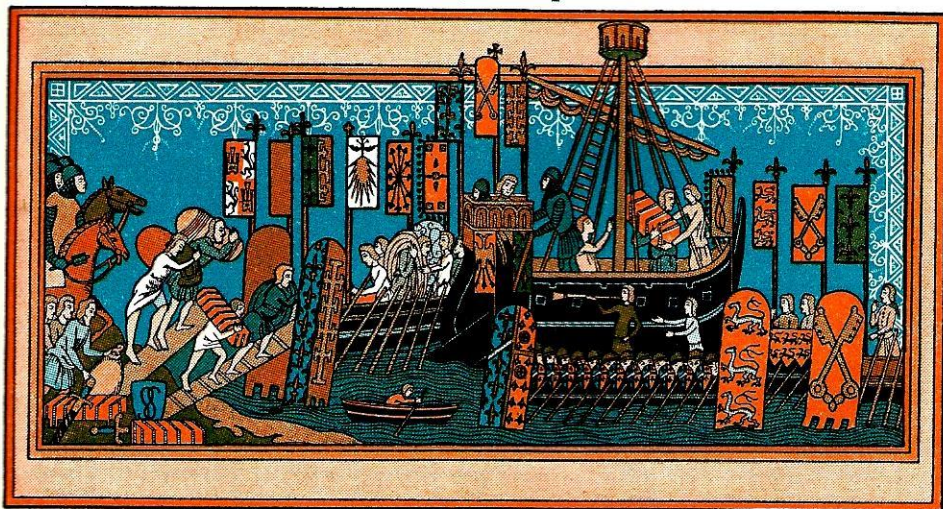
But when the Crusaders arrived at this rich and romantic city, they could not pay for the ships they required. After much hectoring and bargaining, much hopeless talking of *ducats*, the Venetians persuaded the Crusaders to earn their passage-money by capturing for Venice her powerful commercial rival, the rich Christian city of Zara, across the Adriatic.



Many Crusaders objected; Zara was a Christian city; they had not come out to fight Christians! But the leaders were all agreed! Christian or Moslem, what difference in the cause of adventure and plunder? Zara was speedily taken.

Elated by this success, the Venetians next urged the Crusaders to take Constantinople; there was a real rival! Once Venice had been subject to Byzantium, but for centuries under her *doge*, she had been independent and now to conquer Byzantium and turn her trade to Venice would mean untold wealth to the grasping Queen of the Adriatic.

At this time in Constantinople, Alexius III had seized the throne and put out the eyes of his brother, the former Emperor Isaac; but Isaac had fled with his son, the young Prince Alexius, and sought refuge in the West. Here was a good excuse to make an attack! Venetians and Crusaders now decided to regain the throne for Isaac and young Alexius! Young Alexius promised much! He would bring the Greek Church under the Pope, he would give the Crusaders 200,000 marks of silver, with provisions and extra men.



Western knights embarking at Venice for the Fourth Crusade. Crusaders on horseback are ready to follow the sailors who are busily loading supplies for the expedition which will destroy forever the trade and power of Constantinople. The banners so proudly displayed identify the leaders. (14th cent. MS., Museum of the Louvre, Paris.)

Boldly, and with banners flaunting as joyously in the breeze as though they had gone against infidels, the Crusaders set sail from Venice, attacked Constantinople, deposed the Emperor Alexius, and replaced Isaac and his son. Young Alexius, however, found he had promised too rashly. He could not raise the huge amount of 200,000 marks to pay the greedy Crusaders. An unforgivable sin! The Crusaders were up in arms! Again they besieged the city. In vain did the Pope command them not to attack Constantinople; in vain did many Crusaders rebuke and desert their fellows for such an outrageous deed. The Crusaders took the city, and the proud old Queen of the East lay humbled and at their mercy. In cold blood they spoiled the palace, the houses and the churches, then did as they chose with the people; and indescribable orgies took place even before the high altar in the church of Sancta Sophia.

"The Franks," said a Greek writer who actually saw the event, "behaved far worse than the Saracens; for the infidels when a town has surrendered at least respect churches and women." Once again the barbarian West had destroyed the principal seat of culture and civilization.

Count Baldwin of Flanders was elected emperor, and the new kingdom was known as the Latin Empire of Constantinople. A Venetian patriarch was chosen and Venice was given rich islands and flourishing cities on the coast. But certain Byzantine nobles established a state at Nicaea seventy miles away, and carried on warfare for fifty years against the Latin Empire. Finally, in 1261, they drove the Latins out, restoring a weakened shadow of Byzantine power.

The cause of the Crusades was immensely hurt. People said the Crusades had failed because of the sins of Crusaders. Only if the pure in heart should undertake a Crusade, was there hope that they might be successful,—it was this feeling that led to the tragic Children's Crusade.