

ZAMBERTI.

A quaint sonnet in the Venetian dialect contains probably the first printed account of Cyprus. It appears in the very rare book entitled *Isolario*, by Bartolommeo Zamberti (da' Sonetti), a small quarto, without note of place or date, but printed probably at Venice about 1485. The last sonnet in the book is on Cyprus, the concluding leaf being a curious outline map, without any names of places, of the island.

The verses, copied *verbatim et litteratim*, and a translation, are printed below.

S. PER L'ISOLA DE CIPRO

Questa e quella achamantida che piagne
 cotanto a venus delichata e molle
 amathussa e machara pria dir se sole
 adesso cipro e qui come iaque
 Vedila a quella parte one il sol naque
 posta ala sirya e da quella chel tolle
 sta verso charia col suo piano e collo
 piu verso coro onde la hyems il taque
 Questa e simele a crete de grandeza
 e per i venti quasi un stile tene
 e gia de piu dun regno fu in alteza
 qui cuchari qui sale a sai qui bene
 Qui cerere dal trito fa diuicia
 qui da se alba un vino tinto fato
 qui le done de se non fa anaricia
 Qui papho e salamina furno in stato
 qui se ha de amaso e coloe notitia
 qui bufauento mira dogni lato
 Lydinia chithio carpacio e gostanza
 Famagosta nicosia regal stanza

SONNET ON THE ISLAND OF CYPRUS.

This is that Acamantis which charmed so much delicate and tender Venus. Anciently it was called Amathusia and Macaria, now Cyprus. It lies thus—see! on the side where the sun rises it is set over against Syria, and on that where it sets towards Caria; with its plains and hills sloping more towards the north-west, so that the winter blasts are hushed. It is like Crete in size, and lies open to almost the same winds. Of old it held more than one kingdom. Here are sugar, much salt, and wealth, for Ceres showers here store of grain. Here a wine black when made grows light of itself. Here the women are not chary of their favours. Here Paphos and Salamis were renowned: and we hear of Tamassus and Soloi. Here Buffavento looks to every side. Lydinia, Citium, Carpas and Constantia, Famagusta, and Nicosia, seat of kings.