

“To the Lion, the Avenger;” and below these words, an arm thrust out of a cloud and laying a crown decorated with a palm branch on the head of the winged lion. Below all are the figures, 1685. The reverse shows a wonderful map of Greece southward from Prevesa on the west, and Eubœa on the east. The names of twenty-two places are more legible than in almost any modern map. The position of each city is indicated by something resembling a wall and gate. Over ten cities there rises a cross, over five a crescent. The outlines of seven islands are marked; those of bays and rivers, forests and mountains, are still more numerous.

The medal is of silver, and four and one-half inches in circumference. It weighs two hundred and sixty-two grains. Its age, lacking only six years of two centuries, renders it miraculous that I behold it untouched by time’s effacing fingers. Many letters are delicate, but not one is erased. The lion’s nose was stamped in high relief, and it has been a little snubbed and flattened. In all other respects, we survey this relic with nothing of that artistic finish marred, and nothing of that polished brightness dimmed with which it came forth from the mint where all Christendom learned the art of coining.

On the whole, few specimens of the numismatic art are more creditable than the medal before me. But as an historical memorial it is far more memorable.

It celebrates the last great triumph of Venetian arms. The war to which it relates was waged between Venice and Turkey for fifteen years; from 1684 to 1699. The Venetians, under Morosini who had become world-famous by defending Candia at the close of the longest siege recorded in history, invaded Greece. They first attacked the Ionian Islands on its western coast. They conquered Santa Maura in sixteen days; then overran Cephalonia and Zante. Next they captured Prevesa and Arta north of the Corinthian Gulf. Afterwards, landing on the Morea, which Turkish tyrants had held for more than two centuries, they mastered Navarino, Modon, Coron, and before the end of two years they had driven the Turks out of the whole Southern Peninsula, except Naplia and Corinth. In 1687, they besieged the Acropolis of Athens, and at length took it. In the annals of art, this siege