

Biography of Raymund Lull

the Church and the clergy were supreme, enter on such a work? Thereupon it occurred to him that at least a beginning might be made by composing a volume which should demonstrate the truth of Christianity and convince the warriors of the Crescent of their errors. This book, however, would not be understood by them unless it were in Arabic, and of this language he was ignorant; other difficulties presented themselves and almost drove him to despair. Full of such thoughts, he one day repaired to a neighboring church and poured forth his whole soul to God, beseeching Him if He did inspire these thoughts to enable him to carry them out.*

This was in the month of July. But, al-

* "Vita Prima," p. 662. "Dominum Jesum Christum devote, fleus largiter exoravit, quatenus hæc prædicta tua quæ ipse misericorditer inspiraverat cordi suo, ad effectum sibi placitum perducere dignaretur." Several authorities put a period of short backsliding between his conversion and the account of the sermon by the friar that follows in our text.