

*Letter of Aeneas Silvius Piccolomini to Lord Cardinal Firmanus*, trans. by W.L. North from the edition in A. Pertusi, *Testi inediti e poco noti sulla caduta di Constantinopoli*, *Il Mondo Medievale* 4, Bologna: Pàtron Editore 1983, #13, p. 92.

To the Lord Cardinal Firmanus.

My most reverend Father in Christ and most worshipful Lord ...

... Horrible news about the Turks was recently sent from Rascia [Serbia] as well as from Venice, and there was a pressing rumor that Constantinople had been destroyed, the Christian fleet lost, and Pera handed over to the Turks. This was so disturbing to the Emperor [Frederick III] and to his entire Court, that I wrote a long letter to our most holy lord [Pope Nicholas V] concerning this matter. Now happier news ... or at least news that is not quite so harsh ... has arrived. For it is said that the troops of our Lord have entered Constantinople and that the royal city has been defended, though some ships were lost. And so our minds are more at ease. The emperor has sent messengers to investigate the truth of the matter and we expect them [to return] any day ...

From Graz, 27 July 1453.