

Biography of Raymond Lull

and he seemed to have regained perfect health. Lull reached Tunis at the end of the year 1291 or early in 1292.*

Why did the philosophic missionary choose Tunis as his first point of attack on the citadel of Islam? The answer is not far to seek.

Tunis, the present capital of the country of the same name, was founded by the Carthaginians, but first rose to importance under the Arab conquerors of North Africa, who gave it its present name; this comes from an Arabic root which signifies "to enjoy oneself." † Tunis was the usual port for those going from Kairwan (that Mecca of all North Africa) to Spain. In 1236, when the Hafsites displaced the Almohade dynasty, Abu Zakariyah made it his capital. When the fall of Bagdad left

* "Vita Prima," in "Acta Sanctorum," p. 664. Neander's "Memorials," p. 527, and Maclear, p. 361.

† *Al Muktataf*, February number, 1901, p. 79.