

the Milanese and their allies defeated him, forcing him to call a truce, and then in 1183 to sign a final peace treaty recognizing their autonomy. Barbarossa's defeat forced him to look around for new allies. One of them was Humbert III of Savoy, hitherto guardedly neutral, but now happy to profit from this display of imperial favor. With Barbarossa's backing, Humbert occupied a few places in the diocese of Turin, infringing on Bishop Milo's rights: it seems too that the commune may have acknowledged him as their lord, at least for a short time. But once Barbarossa concluded the final peace with the Lombard League in 1183, he had no further need of Humbert's self-interested support. In an evident effort to place Turin under the control of a more trustworthy ally he realigned himself with Bishop Milo, denied Humbert's claims to the lordship of the city, and forced him to evacuate the places he had occupied in the surrounding territory. As before, during Bishop Charles's time, episcopal command over the diocese was ultimately dependent on the emperor's support.

Defeat at Legnano had not completely dashed Barbarossa's hopes of restoring imperial authority in the Kingdom of Italy, and Turin figured in these plans because of its strategic position. He seems to have established some kind of official residence in the city, for we hear of an "imperial palace" there in the years after 1178. Meanwhile he was placing his own judicial officers, known as Podestàs, wherever he could in the north Italian cities. They acted as administrators and judges, kept the peace, and also collected the tolls and taxes due to the emperor. The office of Podestà proved to be a valuable administrative innovation and was soon adopted by many of the cities of northern and central Italy. The men who held the offices of Podestà came from a new class of professional administrators which was emerging in response to the demand for more sophisticated urban government. They were trained in the law, and backed up by their own personal staffs of secretaries and armed retainers. They were itinerant, holding their positions for six months or a year, then moving on with their staffs to take up a post in another city. Because they were outsiders, not tied to any particular faction in the cities they helped to govern, and serving only for a short term and then moving on, they were held to be more impartial than the consuls and other local officials. Handbooks soon began to appear for the use of this new class of public officials, counseling them on their moral obligations as keepers of the public peace, and detailing the administrative techniques and legal expertise they needed to discharge their multifarious duties. Turin's first Podestà is mentioned in 1196. He was probably an imperial appointee, but it seems that the emperor quickly lost the