

moned\* did not fail to benefit, and having united with the king of Arragon he possessed himself of Gibraltar, which was now lost to the Moors for ever.

Among the unhappy wretches who were forced to abandon this city, was an old man oppressed with age and infirmities, who approached Ferdinand, leaning on his staff, and addressed him to the following effect. “ King of Castile, what have I  
“ done to wrong either thyself or thy people? Thy great grand-  
“ father Ferdinand forced me to fly Seville my native country  
“ and betake myself to Xeres. From Xeres I was expelled  
“ by thy grandfather Alphonso, and compelled to seek a  
“ second asylum at Tariffe†. Thence I was chased by thy  
“ father. Finally, I retired to this extremity of Spain, hoping  
“ at least to remain here unmolested, and to find upon this  
“ barren rock at once a tomb and the termination of my  
“ miseries. Even here thy wrath pursues me. Point out  
“ then I beseech thee some part of the earth, out of the reach  
“ of the Spaniards and thy ambition, to which I may retire  
“ and die unmolested.” “ Pass the seas,” replied the haughty conqueror, and instantly ordered him to be transported to Africa.

Being pressed on all sides by the Castilians and Arragonians, or become mistrustful of his own subjects, whose minds

\* Note (N).

† Note (O).

were alienated from him by the cabals of his principal courtiers, Mahomet and his minister were driven to the necessity of patching up a peace with the Christian powers upon terms equally disadvantageous as dishonourable. But even this humiliation could not secure them the calm they expected; the war soon breaking out and raging again with redoubled fury. At length Mahomet Abennazar, brother of Mahomet the Blind, possessed himself of the royal person, and, having murdered his captive, usurped his throne. The usurper did not long enjoy what he had obtained by his crimes; being in his turn, shortly after, dispossessed by Farady, the minister of his late unfortunate predecessor, who not daring to wear the crown himself, placed it on the head of his son Ismael, the nephew of Mahomet the Blind.

From this period the royal family of Grenada was split into two factions, which proved implacable and fatal enemies to each other; one of these was called the party of Farady, and professed to support the succession, as then established, in the female line. The other Alhamar, which thought to confine it to the male line. The young Abennazar, then a prisoner at Guadix, was regarded as the head of this latter faction, and his claims were strongly supported by the Castilians, whose interest it was to foment the dissensions then raging in Grenada. Profiting by these dissensions, Don Pedro, uncle of the young King of Castile, and Alphonso, surnamed the Avenger,

obtained many important advantages over the Moors, at length Don Pedro uniting with Don John, another Infant of Castile, marched to the very ramparts of Grenada, plundering and destroying the country in all directions as they proceeded. Ismaël quietly regarded their movements, permitting them to indulge in these excesses without the slightest interruption, but they no sooner prepared to return to Castile, swoln and encumbered with their immense booty, than he, who had cautiously attended all their movements, pursued and contrived to surprize the rear guard of their army, which brought on a most desperate battle. This action took place on the twenty-sixth of June, in one of the hottest days of that climate, and, the victory being contested most obstinately, the Princes were forced to make such exertions, that at length they were overpowered by the heat of the sun, and both dropped dead on the field of battle.

This accident spread general dismay among the panting and exhausted Spaniards, who, being no longer able to support the unequal conflict, fled on all sides in the greatest disorder, leaving all their baggage, and the body of one of their princes in the possession of the enemy. The conduct of the victors on this occasion, is highly characteristic of Moorish generosity. Ismaël caused the body to be carefully removed to Grenada, where he had it placed in a rich coffin, which was covered

with a cloth most splendidly embroidered, and after paying it all other suitable honors, he ordered it to be transmitted for interment to Castile. What a contrast does this trait present to the conduct of the haughty Ferdinand towards the superannuated Moor at Gibraltar? The mountains near which this battle was fought, have been since called, in commemoration of this event, the Sierra des los Infantos.

Ismaël derived no other advantage from this victory and his subsequent humanity, than the obtaining of an honourable truce and the restoration of a few towns of little importance, whose restoration he did not long survive. Being smitten by the charms of a young Castilian captive, who had fallen by lot to one of his officers, he took her from him by force, an act of violence and injustice which cost him his life. Among the Moors, offences of this nature were never to be expiated but by blood, and he accordingly met his fate at the hands of the officer he had injured. He was succeeded upon the throne by his son Mahomet.

The reigns of this Mahomet, and his immediate successor Joseph, who were both murdered in their palaces, occupy a space of about thirty years; but exhibit nothing more than a disgusting catalogue of cruelties and crimes; of sedition, murders, wars and desolation.



At length Abel Hassen, king of Morocco, of the dynasty of the Morinis, being solicited by the Grenadians, arrived with a formidable army to co-operate with them against the common enemy. This brought on the famous battle of Salado. The confederates were encountered on the banks of this river, not far from Tariffe, by the kings of Castile and Portugal, who gained a complete victory over them. The loss of the Muslims in this battle was never exactly ascertained. But there is no doubt that many thousands of lives were lost, as this battle is as highly celebrated in the Spanish annals, as their former glorious and important victory of Toloza.

After this defeat Abel Hassen, to conceal his disgrace, betook himself to Africa, and the victorious armies proceeded to lay siege to Algeziras\*, which was justly regarded as one of the principal bulwarks of the Grenadians, being the chief inlet through which that people were accustomed on emergencies to receive the succours of their African neighbours. Many English, French and Navarrese knights resorted to this siege, which was particularly remarkable, because the Moors are said to have then brought cannon for the first time into use. It is pretty certain that this is the first instance upon record in which this species of warfare appears to have been recurred to; the English not having adopted it till the battle of Crécy,

\* Note (P).

which was four years subsequent to the siege of Algeziras. Hence, whether we are beholden or not to the Moors for the discovery of gun-powder, the credit of which has been assigned alternately to the Chinese, to Schwartz the German Cordelier, and to our own countryman Roger Bacon, there is every reason to conclude that they were the original inventors and founders of cannon. Yet notwithstanding this new, and, it must be owned, ingenious and powerful discovery, Algeziras was taken. After the surrender of this important post the king of Grenada was repeatedly beaten by the Spaniards, and at length murdered by his own subjects.

We have already remarked, that among the Moors, the succession to the throne was not regulated by any law. It is, however, further worthy observation, that, notwithstanding the various scenes of confusion and the various outrages, incidental to a vacancy of the throne, and to times of consequent anarchy and confusion, the preference of election almost invariably attached to some prince of the blood. Thus, after the murder of Ismaël, the crown of Grenada, as we have seen, was not disputed by any new family; but the contest for it solely rested between the two branches of Alhamar and Farady, both descended from one common stock. But, as the former of these branches had been dispossessed by the latter, they always regarded those who had dispossessed them as usurpers,

and thus the sparks for future conspiracies and dissensions were perpetually kept alive.

Joseph the first was succeeded by his uncle Farady, who assumed the name of Mahomet, and was called the Old, because he ascended the throne at an advanced age. This Farady was dethroned by his cousin Alhamar, styled Mahomet the Red, who continued upon the throne some time under the protection of the King of Arragon. But the cause of the dethroned King being at length espoused by Peter the Cruel, King of Castile, Mahomet found himself so closely pressed by that monarch that he had no alternative but to throw himself on the mercy of his opponent. He accordingly repaired to Seville, at the head of a numerous escort, carrying with him a considerable treasure; and presenting himself with a noble confidence before his persecutor, "King of Castile," said he, "abundance of Christian and Musulman blood has been shed  
" by my contest with Farady. You are the protector of  
" my adversary. You therefore I chuse to be our judge.  
" Examine our respective pretensions, and decide which  
" is entitled to reign. If your decision is favourable to my  
" rival, I ask no more than a safe conduct into Africa. If  
" you think justice on my side, behold me here ready to do  
" you homage for my crown."

Peter was so astonished at this generous and dignified address, that he appears to have forgot for the moment his natural barbarity. He invited the prince to a splendid entertainment, placed him on his right hand at the table, conversed with him long and familiarly, and treated him apparently with every other possible mark of distinction and kindness. But this shew of moderation and forbearance was only a refinement on his natural cruelty. For his guest had scarcely risen from table than he was dragged contemptuously to prison, and from thence paraded half naked on an ass to a place called la Tablada, where he was forced to remain a passive spectator while thirty of his retinue were butchered in his presence. At length, the execrable monster, who directed these cruelties, as if envious of the executioner in his bloody office, seized a lance and dispatched his royal guest with his own hands. The unhappy victim of this aggravated barbarity is said, even in the agonies of death, to have been more affected by this unprincipled violation of the laws of hospitality, and the insult offered by it to all the rules of chivalry, than by his own personal sufferings; for he died exclaiming "O Peter, perfidious, cruel Peter! Is this a fit exploit for a knight?"

But base and unjustifiable as the conduct of the Castilian appears, not only in this but in a multitude of other instances all equally nefarious, he was not it seems the only monster of

his day. By an unaccountable fatality all the Christian thrones in Spain, at this period, seem to have been occupied by tyrants blackened with crimes. Peter the Cruel, besides the atrocious act we have just witnessed, not only passed sentence of death upon his wife, Blanche of Bourbon, but was daily imbruing his hands in the blood of his kindred and best friends.—He was, in short, the Nero of Castile!

Peter the Fourth, of Arragon, inherited the joint bad qualities of Nero and Tiberius. Though less violent than the Castilian, he was equally cruel; but far superior to him in perfidy. The monster not only deprived one of his brothers of his inheritance, but passed sentence of death upon another, and to complete the black catalogue of his enormities, consigned over even his antient and venerable tutor to the hands of the executioner.

Peter the First, King of Portugal,\* was the lover of the celebrated Ines de Castro, and his ferocity is said in one instance to have been heightened, by the cruelty which had been exercised on his mistress. For this we must admit he took ample revenge, when he caused the hearts of her murderers to be torn from them alive. But upon what principle shall we justify or extenuate the murder of his innocent sister?

\* Note (Q).

Finally, Charles the Bad was at this time King of Navarre, a monster at whose very name humanity sickens. Spain, drenched in blood, groaned under the oppressions of these contemporary savages. If further we recollect that it was at this very period that France was exposed to her dreadful distractions by the captivity and detention of her King, John ; that it was then England beheld the commencement of her troubles under Richard the Second ; that Italy had two contending Popes, and was further distracted by the conflicts of the Guelph and Ghibeline factions ; finally, that this was the period when Tamerlane was extending his bloody ravages, from the country of the Usbecs to the peninsula of India, we must admit that there has been scarcely an epoch in the history of the world, unless it be the present, in which mankind has been so universally afflicted.

After the crime perpetrated by Peter the Cruel, upon his unhappy guest, Grenada appears to have enjoyed a lucid interval of tranquillity. Mahomet the Old, by the death of his rival, was confirmed on the throne, and was the only monarch who preserved an unshaken fidelity to Peter to the end of his reign. His alliance, however, could not protect the tyrant from the punishment due to his delinquences. He was deprived of his crown and life by his bastard brother Henry of Transtamar ; an event which produced no change in the

then state of affairs between Grenada and Castile. Mahomet renewed with Henry the treaty he had made with his predecessor, and adhered to it through his reign. At his death he bequeathed his flourishing states to his nephew Abou Hadjad, surnamed by historians Mahomet Guadix, who proved one of the wisest and best of the Grenadian sovereigns.



JUNTA DE ANDALUCIA

P.C. Monumental de la Alhambra y Generalife  
CONSEJERÍA DE CULTURA

## CHAPTER THE SIXTH.

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STATE OF THE SCIENCES IN GRENADA AT THIS PERIOD.  
—GALLANTRY OF THE GRENADIAN MOORS.—DESCRIP-  
TION OF THEIR WOMEN.

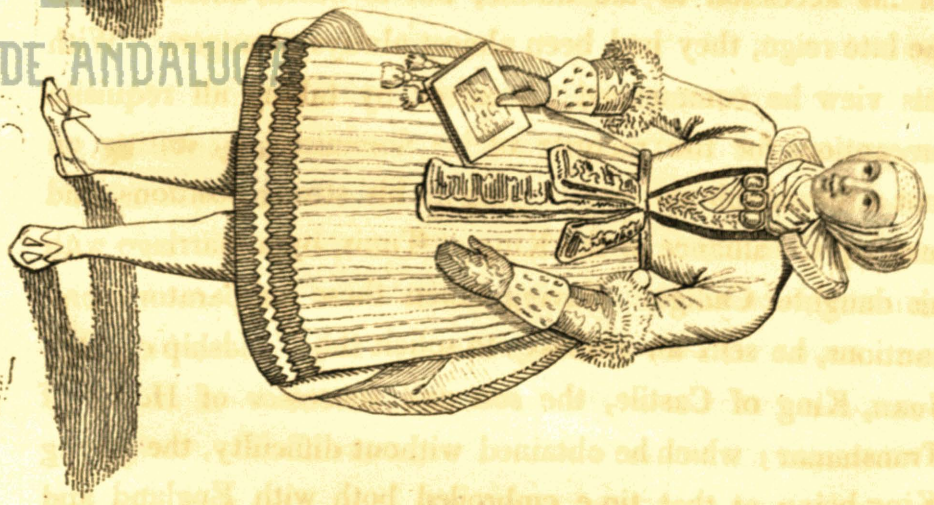
**T**HE first great object of Mahomet's policy, was to secure that peace to his people of which he found them in possession on his accession to the throne, but to which, antecedent to the late reign, they had been almost always strangers. With this view he commenced his career, by taking all requisite precautions for the security of his dominions, by setting on foot a formidable army, fortifying all his strong positions, and insuring the alliance of the King of Tunis, by a marriage with his daughter Cadige. Having taken these preparatory precautions, he sent an embassy to solicit the friendship of Don Juan, King of Castile, the son and successor of Henry of Transtamar; which he obtained without difficulty, the young King being at that time embroiled both with England and Portugal.



*Natives of Arago.*



*Female Drgs at Dragoe*



Having concluded this alliance, and taken similar precautions with respect to the other Christian powers, the attention of Mahomet was next directed to the advancement of agriculture and commerce, both of which he relieved of the burthens that pressed most heavily upon them; by which salutary relief, no bad lesson to all financiers, he actually augmented his own revenues. By these and other equally politic and salutary regulations he not only endeared himself to his people, whose happiness he thus promoted, but caused himself to be respected and feared by all the Christian powers, without having himself reason to be afraid of any of them.

Mahomet employed all his wealth and leisure in patronizing the arts. He gave particular encouragement to poetry and architecture, by which he embellished his capital, and contrived to leave many elegant monuments of his taste and magnificence at Grenada and Guadix; but particularly at this latter city, for which he had always justly entertained the strongest predilection.

His court was further signalized as the mansion of politeness and gallantry. The Grenadian academies produced good painters, good mathematicians, astrologers, botanists, and physicians. The greater part of the works of their celebrated writers\* were destroyed on the conquest of that kingdom.

\* Note (R).



Some few, however, have happily escaped, and were, till lately, to be met with in the library of the Escorial. Many of them treat of grammar and astrology, but the principal part turn on subjects of theology, in which branch they are said particularly to have excelled. This is not to be wondered at, when we contemplate the genius of the people; in adverting to which, is it unreasonable to conclude, that the unhappy turn for scholastic disputation and the useless discussion of subtle and abstruse questions, which characterise many of the writings of that age, (writings now very wisely consigned to oblivion) was introduced into Europe through the channel of these Moorish schools?

The pretended secrets of the Cabala, of alchymy, of judicial astrology\*, and the conjuring wand; all the histories of sorcerers, magicians or enchanters, heretofore so frequent and even credited among us, are most unquestionably derived from the Arabs. In all ages they have been noted for superstition, and it is perhaps to their long residence in Spain, and their constant intercourse with the Spaniards, that we are to attribute that love for the marvellous, that implicit credulity, bordering on superstition, for which this latter people are noted, a people in whom nature has deposited some of the germs of her sublimest virtues!

\* Note (S).

Novels and romances were always in the highest estimation among the Arabs, and there can be scarcely a doubt that the taste of the Spaniards for productions of this nature is deducible from this source. The Arabs or Moors have always been, and are still, fond of fables and romances. In Asia, as in Africa, in the middle of their deserts, they assemble nightly in their tents to attend the recital of some amour, or some otherwise interesting story. They listen to the narrative in the profoundest silence, follow it up with attention and interest, and weep or rejoice with the lovers or heroes whose adventures are related.

At Grenada a taste for poetry was blended with this predilection for fable. Their poets composed verses on love or war. Their musicians gave apposite airs to these verses, and their young people recited them. Hence that immense mass of Spanish romances translated or imitated from the Moors, which, in language simple but affecting, relate the conversations of lovers, the disputes between rivals, or their wars with the Christians. In these works every thing is described with the minutest exactness. Their feasts, the sports of the ring and cane; the bull course, which they borrowed from the Spaniards; their arms, which consisted of a large sabre, a small lance, a coat of mail and a light leathern buckler; their horses, whose trailing housings swept the ground and were embossed with precious stones; their devices, which were ge-



nerally a heart pierced with darts, a star directing a vessel, or the first letter of the name of a favourite mistress ; finally their colours, each of which carried its distinct signification, the yellow and black denoting grief; the green hope, the blue jealousy, and the violet or flame-coloured impassioned love.

The delicate and refined gallantry of the Moors was once famed through Europe, and presents a striking contrast to the characteristic ferocity of the aboriginal African. War was the glory of this gallant nation. Every warrior prided himself upon his prowess in battle, and the dexterity with which he had taken off the head of an enemy, which was usually suspended on his saddle bow, and afterwards exposed in its bleeding state, over the gate of his palace, or on the battlements of his city.

Yet these warriors, so restless, so untractable, so ready to revolt, and depose or murder their sovereigns, were, of all people, the tenderest and most impassioned of lovers. Their women, who in general were treated little better than slaves, were no sooner beloved, than they were exalted into so many tutelar divinities. It was to recommend themselves to these, they pursued glory and fame, and became prodigal to excess both of life and fortune; endeavouring to eclipse each other in the magnificence and splendour of their feasts and shows, no less than by the lustre of their military achievements.

Was this desire to please, this extraordinary mixture of delicacy with barbarity, of mildness with ferocity, derived from the Spaniards to the Moors, or from these latter to the Spaniards? Perhaps the question, in the opinion of many, may not be easily solved. Yet, when we reflect that these traits in the Moorish character, are not to be met with in Asia, which was their original country; that they are still less perceptible in Africa, where they had naturalized themselves by conquest; and finally, that since their expulsion from Spain, they have lost all traces of these chivalrous, amiable characteristics, must we not be disposed, as far as this kind of negative evidence goes, to decide in favour of the Spaniards?

Perhaps the traits we are noticing might be traced to the courts of the Gothic Kings, antecedent to the arrival of the Moors in Spain. Whether they can be so traced or not, one thing is certain, that they are to be found among the Christian princes subsequent to this event, the knights and princes of Leon, Navarre and Castile being no less celebrated in the annals of history, for their gallantry than for their renown in arms.

What ideas of tenderness as well as courage does not the illustrious Cid alone awaken in us? But without adverting to individual examples, of which innumerable instances might be produced, we know, that long after the expulsion of the

Moors, the Spaniards bore away the palm of gallantry from the French, and that the manners of the chivalrous ages, though lost to the rest of Europe, are still, to a certain degree, perceptible in various parts of Spain. Much of the chivalrous manners of the Grenadians, is no doubt to be attributed to their women, who were exactly qualified to create and keep alive this spirit of gallantry among their countrymen, and to occasion those excesses of love, of which so many examples, equally extraordinary as pleasing, occur both in Spanish and Arabian history. They were then, what they continue at this day, the most alluring and fascinating women in the world. As my authority for the assertion, the following portrait of them is taken from an Arabian history published at Grenada, in the reign of Mahomet the Old.

“ They are,” says this historian, “ uncommonly beautiful, “ and their charms, which rarely fail to impress at first sight, “ are further set off by a lightness and grace, which gives them “ an influence quite irresistible. They are rather below the mid- “ dle stature ; their hair, which is of a beautiful black, descends “ almost to their ancles. No vermilion can vie with their lips, “ which are continually sending forth the most bewitching “ smiles, as if expressly to display teeth as white as alabaster. “ They are profuse in the use of perfumes and washes, which, “ being exquisite in their kinds, give a freshness and lustre to “ the skin rarely to be equalled by the women of other coun-

“ tries. Their steps, their dances, all their movements display  
“ a graceful softness, an easy negligence, that enhances their  
“ other charms, and not only renders them irresistible, but  
“ exalts them beyond all power of praise. Their conversa-  
“ tion is lively and poignant; their wit refined and pene-  
“ trating, equally adapted to grave and abstruse discussions,  
“ as to the pleasantest and most lively sallies.”

*Illam, quicquid agit, quoquo vestigia flectit,  
Componit furtim subsequiturque decor.\**

Some grace propitious on her steps attends,  
Adjusts her charms by stealth, and recommends.

The dresses of the Grenadian women, like those of the modern Turks and Persians, consisted of a long tunic closed by a girdle, an upper garment with straight sleeves, called a *chamara*, large drawers and Morocco slippers. Their stuffs, were uncommonly fine, were edged with gold and silver, and set off with a profusion of jewels. Their hair fell in braids down the shoulders, and their heads were covered with small bonnets, to which were attached embroidered veils, exceedingly rich and ornamental, that descended to their knees.

The men were clothed nearly after the same fashion. Their purses, daggers and handkerchiefs were fastened to their

\* Note (T).



girdles. Their heads were covered with white turbans. In summer they wore a large white robe over the dolyman, which they exchanged in winter for the alboanoso or African mantle. Their only variation of this dress was in times of war, when they put on coats of mail, and lined their turbans with iron.

It was customary for the Grenadians during the autumn to assemble at the charming villas in the vicinity of their city, where they resigned themselves wholly to pleasure, their nights and days being occupied alternately by music, dancing and the chase. Their dances, as well as some of their tales and ballads, were loose and lascivious. If the philosopher could be astonished at any contradictions in human nature, he would be surprised and puzzled to account, how any thing like a disregard or contempt of decency could be tolerated among a people, who seemed so well to understand the nature of love. But, in fact, the Eastern nations are but little acquainted with the truly amiable attributes of this divine passion. Their whole enjoyments are sensual. They are more jealous than delicate, and know not how to discriminate between the gratifications obtained by selection and preference, and those reluctantly acquiesced in upon far opposite and most humiliating considerations!

## CHAPTER THE SEVENTH.

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EXPEDITION OF MARTYN BARBUDAS.—REIGNS OF JOSEPH,  
MAHOMET THE NINTH, AND JOSEPH THE SECOND.

**W**E availed ourselves of the calm which Grenada enjoyed during the reign of Mahomet Guadix, to enter upon the preceding details, which the reader perhaps, after all, will think irrelevant, if not tedious. This good king enjoyed a reign of thirty years, and at his death, was succeeded without opposition by his son Joseph. The successor conformed to his father's policy, endeavouring to preserve peace with the different powers, in which he happily succeeded, with only a little interruption occasioned by the machinations of a fanatic hermit. This fanatic had contrived to persuade Martyn Barbudas, Grand Master of Alcantara, as great a madman as himself, that he was appointed a chosen instrument in the hands of Providence to effect the total expulsion of the Moors from Spain, and that the glorious work was to be accomplished

without any difficulty, or the loss of even a single man, in the attempt.

The credulous Grand Master was so dazzled with the prospect of an enterprise which promised him glory upon such easy terms; that he determined, without loss of time, to attempt the accomplishment of the prophecy. By way of prologue therefore to the farce he was about to act, he dispatched, what he called, an ambassador to the King of Grenada, with orders to declare, in his name, that the religion of Mahomet was false and detestable, and that of Christ, the only true one. And the ambassador was further instructed to say, that his master was ready to support this declaration, not by argument, not by proofs drawn from the sacred volumes, but by the summary and infallible evidence of the sword, in which he had such faith, as to challenge him to a combat of one hundred Christians against twice that number of Muslims, upon no other condition, than that the vanquished party should oblige themselves to embrace the religion of the victors.

It was with much difficulty, great and unquestionable as the authority of his master was, that Joseph contrived to protect the person of the ambassador, who brought this very conciliatory message. All his precautions, however, could not

secure him from insult. He was not only reviled with the most opprobrious language, but hooted out of the city with the most marked accompaniments of indignation and contempt. The zealous Grand Master was not a little surprised, when he was informed of this reception of his ambassador. But he was too confident of the predictions in his favour, uttered by his inspired monitor and favourite, to be easily alarmed at the discontent of a whole people, or to think, that because they refused to acquiesce in a particular change, that that change ought not nevertheless to be attempted. This has been a rock perhaps upon which more than one pilot has been shipwrecked. But when did experience or reason ever avail against rooted obstinacy and fanaticism? Martyn committed himself, in contempt of all prudence, to the guidance of his favourite prophet, and at the head of one thousand infantry and three hundred cavalry proceeded for Grenada, not doubting that this force would overrun that whole kingdom, or that the timid African would shrink back at the first appearance of his formidable legions.

The king of Castile was no sooner apprised of these proceedings, so opposite both to his wishes and his policy, than he expressed his disapprobation openly, and forbid in the most positive terms the entrance of the frantic Crusade upon his territories. Barbudas, notwithstanding this injunction,

continued his route, making no other reply, than "that it was his duty to serve God." The governors of the provinces through which he passed attempted in vain to oppose his progress. Their opposition only tended further to inflame the zeal of the infatuated people, and so many were dazzled by the boldness of the enterprise and the promises of the prophet, that, when the Grand Master entered the territories his credulity had taught him to consider as an easy conquest, he found his numbers augmented to six thousand effectives.

With this force, which he was impatient to try, he attacked the first castle that lay on his march, where he lost three of his men and was himself wounded. "How," says he, turning, not a little confounded, to his great counsellor, "how do you account for this misfortune so contrary to your prediction, that I should effect the reduction of Grenada, without the loss of a single man?" To this, the other, who had his answer ready, replied, that his prediction only referred to a pitched battle. Martyn was so satisfied with this reply that he proceeded, without any further questions, to bring the veracity of his friend to a new test, by engaging in a pitched battle against fifty thousand Moors. It is hardly necessary to state the result. The Grand Master and three hundred of his knights perished in the field, and the remainder of his

little army was either taken or cut off in its retreat. History says nothing of the fate of the Prophet Hermit, but its silence leads us to conjecture that he was not among the last to flee. As the king of Castile had unequivocally manifested his displeasure at this aggression, the harmony betwixt that kingdom and Grenada experienced no interruption.

Joseph survived this incident some years, but was at last poisoned by wearing a magnificent robe which had been sent him as a present by his secret enemy the king of Fez. We are told that the poison with which the robe was impregnated, was so subtle and virulent, that the unhappy victim suffered the most excruciating agonies for thirty days, during which his flesh rotted and detached itself by piece meal from his bones.

Joseph was succeeded by Mahomet the Ninth, the second of his sons, who had attempted to excite disturbances during the life of his father, and now usurped the throne over his elder brother whom he had imprisoned. Though the usurper had neither courage nor talents for war, yet, being in close alliance with the king of Tunis, and having with his assistance contrived to augment his fleet, he departed from his father's policy and broke the truce with Castile. But though he broke it with some success, yet the cause of the Castilians

was afterwards fully avenged by Don Juan the governor of the infant king, and Mahomet fell a victim to his unjust and impolitic ambition.

When the usurper found his end approaching, he dispatched an officer to the prison in which his brother was confined, with orders to put this prince to death, expecting by this precaution to secure the throne to his son.

Joseph, who was engaged at a game of chess with an Iman, when the officer imparted the cruel order, coolly solicited permission to finish his game, with which the other complied, and by the respite thus obtained, he saved his life. Before the game was ended, a second messenger arrived, to announce the death of his cruel brother and his own accession to the throne. A change in the tide of his fortunes, of which he does not seem to have been undeserving!

Instead of avenging himself on those who had been instrumental to his late sufferings, he lavished favours and distinctions upon them, and even so far forgot his brother's inhumanity as to receive his children in his palace, and treat them with all the tenderness of a father. When one of his courtiers ventured to remonstrate against this charitable lenity, " Per-

“ mit me,” exclaimed the benevolent monarch, “ to deprive  
“ my enemies of all excuse for their past injustice, and to  
“ prove to them that I merited their preference, though my  
“ brother obtained it.”

After the death of this good King, whose reign did not exceed fifteen years, Grenada was distracted by civil wars and all their consequent horrors and calamities. Mahomet the Tenth, surnamed Abenhazar, succeeded his father Joseph, but was quickly dispossessed of the crown by Mahomet the Eleventh, surnamed El Zugir, or the Little. After a short reign of two years, this usurper perished on the scaffold, and Abenhazar, with the help of the Abencerrages,\* one of the most powerful of the Grenadian tribes, was again reinstated on the throne.

Shortly after his restoration the Spaniards again entered Grenada, and marched up to the very glacis of the capital, rasing cities and desolating whole districts as they passed. To augment the afflictions of the Grenadians, John the Third, of Castile, contrived to excite a civil war among them, by causing Joseph Alhamar, grandson of that Mahomet the Red, who, as we have stated, was so basely assassinated by

\* Note (U).



Peter the Cruel, to be proclaimed King; and no sooner was this proclamation made, than all the discontented, supported by the Zegirs, the inveterate enemies of the Abencerages, ranged around his banners:

In consequence of this revolution, Mahomet was forced to abdicate the throne, but, upon the death of his competitor, who only enjoyed his new dignity six months, he was once more reinstated. Mahomet reigned fifteen years after his restoration, when he was again deposed and shut up in prison by his nephew, Mahomet the Third, surnamed Osmin. This usurper soon shared the fate of his predecessor, being deposed by his brother Ismaël, and sentenced to end his days in the very dungeon to which he had condemned his unfortunate uncle.

These various revolutions and the crimes which they necessarily generated, did not deaden the animosities of the governors on the frontiers, nor restrain their mutual depredations. In one quarter a troop of horse, or a small body of infantry would pounce upon a village by surprise, to plunder houses, drive off cattle, and massacre the peaceful inhabitants. In another, an army would appear as suddenly, either to destroy vineyards and desolate whole districts, or enter some city to glut its avarice and vengeance, and load itself with spoils.

This species of warfare bore particularly hard upon the farmer who had too often the misfortune to behold the fruits of many months of labor, blighted and destroyed in a few seconds. The country round Grenada, in the reign of Ismaël, was so thoroughly destroyed, that this prince was forced to fell whole forests to supply the calls of the capital, whose fertile and justly celebrated Vega, was rendered almost useless by the reiterated irruptions of the Spaniards.



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## CHAPTER THE EIGHTH.

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REIGN OF MULEY HASSEM.—MARRIAGE OF FERDINAND AND ISABELLA.—FERDINAND'S EMBASSY TO GRENADA, AND MULEY HASSEM'S REPLY.—DISSENTIONS IN GRENADA AND DEATH OF MULEY HASSEM.

**I**SMAËL was succeeded by his son Muley Hassem, who availed himself of the distractions in Castile, during the minority of Henry the Fourth, surnamed the Impotent, to carry his arms into the centre of Andalusia. This early exploit of the young King, joined to the high opinion which was entertained of his military talents, infused new energies into the Grenadians, who began to cherish hopes of recovering all that they had been dispossessed of in the preceding reigns. But the season was gone by for the realization of such hopes, as a change had taken place, which threatened to be productive of consequences the most important. This was nothing less than the marriage of Ferdinand of Sicily, presumptive heir

to the throne of Arragon, with Isabella of Castile, sister of Henry the Impotent. A marriage\* brought about against the wishes of her brother, and in defiance of various impediments that opposed it at the time.

This marriage, by uniting as it did the two most powerful Christian monarchies, portended serious and important changes in the fortunes of the Moors. Either Castile or Arragon was formidable singly, and, under an active and enterprising prince, sufficiently strong to exhaust the Musulmans by constant alarms, if not to crush them altogether. But by the union of both their ruin became obviously inevitable.

To reduce the Musulman power and to expel the Moors altogether from the Peninsula, had principally occupied the attentions of the two sovereigns from the commencement of their respective reigns; and they had no sooner quieted the distractions in their new states, than they directed all their thoughts to the accomplishment of this master-stroke of policy. And the times were certainly highly favourable to the undertaking, since scarcely any court was ever composed of a greater number of brave generals and expert statesmen. The celebrated Ximenes was at the head of their councils, and the camp was brightened by a constellation of heroes, all

\* Note (W).

formed by the civil wars, among whom we need only specify the count de Cabra, the marquis of Cadiz, and the renowned Gonzalvo, the Great Captain, a title conferred upon him by the voice of Europe at the time, and since sanctioned in the faithful records of history. Exclusive of the signal services which were assured to Ferdinand and Isabella from such generals, the latter had had the precaution to provide herself with what has been with reason regarded as one of the main sinews of war. Partly by her own rigid œconomy, and partly by bulls she had the address to obtain from the Pope upon the church revenues, she had replenished her treasury, which the prodigality of her predecessor had drained to the very dregs.

The forces of the two monarchs were nearly equal in point of numbers, discipline, and military tactics. They were wholly made up of Castilians and Arragonians, who, as they were destined to serve under the eye of their respective sovereigns, must have been alike actuated by one general principle of emulation.

Muley Hassem, who reigned at this period at Grenada, was perfectly aware of the dangers with which he was threatened ; but, far from being intimidated, he was the first to break the truce by surprising the Castilian city of Zehra. On the first intelligence of this unexpected aggression, many of the neigh-

bouring cities attempted to take arms against their invaders, but, as they had appointed no fixed point of rallying, they were attacked in little detachments, and easily either cut off or carried into slavery.

Ferdinand was no sooner apprized of an insult which corresponded so exactly with his views, than he determined to turn it to account. An ambassador was accordingly dispatched to Grenada, with orders not only to demand satisfaction for the late aggression, but further to require payment of the arrears of tribute which were due by treaty to Castile.

"I know," said Muley in reply to the ambassador, "that some of my predecessors have been accustomed to send pieces of gold occasionally to your masters. But in my reign we deal in no such article. This is the only metal I have to offer to Castile." On pronouncing which words he pointed to the head of his spear.

Ferdinand upon receiving this answer issued orders instantly to the governors on his frontiers to prepare for war: adding that "he did not doubt but the loss of Zehra would prove a spur to their vigilance, as it must shew how little they could trust to an enemy who could thus contemptuously violate his most solemn engagements."

This charge produced a reply on the part of the Moors, in

which they rested their vindication upon precedent and long established practice. These, they insisted, gave each nation a kind of prescriptive right to surprize cities and fortresses even in times of peace without any previous ceremony or notification, provided no lines of circumvallation were drawn, nor regular intrenchments formed, and that the attack was not continued above three days. At this distance of time it is difficult to decide which of the governments was right, the one that brought the charge, or the one that endeavoured to rebut it. But it certainly does appear a kind of solecism, to consider that as a peace which "gives no assured respite from war," or which can be justly violated without the form of any previous notification.

Fortune, in the commencement of this war, balanced her favours pretty evenly between the belligerent powers. At all events they were so evenly balanced as to give the Musulmans no reason to despond. Muley had a considerable train of artillery; his army was formidable, and his coffers were well filled. But all these advantages were ineffectualized by his own imprudence.

It was the misfortune of the Grenadian prince, though he commanded others, to be himself commanded by a favourite mistress, and to doat on her to such excess, as to let his passion triumph over his prudence. At her

instigation he had been induced to repudiate his queen Aixa, a descendant of one of the first families in Grenada. It was impossible for such an insult to be passed over lightly, or that her whole family should not be implicated in her resentments. The injured princess accordingly contrived to win over her son Boabdil, the presumptive heir of the crown, to espouse her quarrel; and erect the fatal standard of rebellion against his father. By this revolt Muley Hassem was forced to fly his capital, and, Boabdil assuming the reins of government, a civil war was kindled up between father and son for a prize, which Ferdinand was preparing to wrest from both for ever. This contest between the father and son, produced a third competitor in Zagal, the brother of Muley Hassem, who rested his hopes of success on the credit of a battle which he had recently gained over the Spaniards at Malaga. Thus, by one trespass of her liege sovereign, Grenada was exposed to the joint assaults of three different factions at once, and "for the king's offence the people died."

While the unhappy city was torn by these dissensions, Boabdil perceiving the opinions of his friends a little shaken, and their zeal to abate, thought it adviseable to attempt some exploit which might reanimate their hopes, and if possible augment the number of his adherents. He accordingly directed his arms against Lucena, expecting to carry that city by surprise. But the blow which he meditated against the Spaniards



recoiled with augmented violence upon his own head. His army was routed and nearly cut to pieces, and, being himself intercepted in flight, he was reserved to be exhibited as the first instance of a Moorish king, who had ever fallen alive into the hands of his enemies. Ferdinand sent his royal prisoner to Cordova, where he was treated with all possible respect, that he might be properly supplied to the purposes of the conqueror, and produced afterwards as a master trump in the game he was preparing to play.

By the capture of Boabdil, Muley Hassem was enabled to reassume the crown, of which he had been recently dispossessed. But such was the fate of this distracted kingdom, that all efforts to save it proved hopeless, and ineffectual. Ferdinand, who from the very commencement of his reign, had projected the subversion of the Musulman power in Spain, had put himself at the head of an army, consisting of forty thousand infantry and six thousand cavalry. With this formidable force he commenced his operations by laying waste the fauxbourgs of Ylorca, and all the country that lay in his line of march. Having thus far completed his operations, and rased the city of Tanjore, he proceeded directly to invest Grenada, where the infatuated Musulmans were busily employed in tearing each other to pieces, and dyeing the hands of fratricide with daily victims to its ferocity.

Ferdinand, who was well informed of what passed in the devoted city, determined now to prepare the way for his master stroke of policy by bringing once more his puppet Boabdil upon the stage. It was agreed that the Moorish monarch should be set at liberty, on condition, that he acknowledged himself his vassal and did homage to him for his crown : That Ferdinand should be instantly put in possession of certain posts of great strength and importance, and that Boabdil should pay him annually a tribute of twelve hundred gold crowns. In return for these sacrifices, the Castilians simply engaged to assist him against his father, and reinstate him on the throne. The base Boabdil, having subscribed these hard conditions, was dismissed to carry them into effect, or, to speak more properly, to direct his last parricidal efforts against his father and his country.

From this period Grenada became a vast shamble of indiscriminate slaughter, in which Muley Hassem, Zagal, and Boabdil were the principal agents, each contending to excel the other in cruelty and to accelerate the ruin of his kindred and friends. While they were indulging in these excesses, the Spaniards had only to walk leisurely from conquest to conquest ; at one time, affecting to assist Boabdil as their ally ; at another to exact the performance of his late stipulations. Wherever they interfered, under whatever pretence, the flames of

discord invariably raged more fiercely, enabling them to seize upon different cities in succession, in which, while they stuck at no promises to conciliate the people, they were nevertheless minutely exact in plundering and persecuting all descriptions of them alike.

While these excesses were at the height, the old Muley Hassem died, some say being murdered by his brother, but according to others, of excessive grief, for the calamities he had occasioned. Ferdinand profited of this incident, to seize the strong posts of Ylorca and Mecklin; one considered by the Moors, as the right eye of their capital, the other, as its buckler or shield. By this seizure he obtained a perfect command over the whole western part of Grenada.

Boabdil now found himself reduced to the necessity of proposing a compromise with Zagal by the partition of his kingdom, by which he made over Guadix to his competitor, and reserved Grenada to himself. But this partition, instead of proving a prop to his declining power, served only to accelerate its fall. It had no other effect than to open new sources of jealousy and discord between the different factions. At length the criminal Zagal, in despair of being able to retain what had been allotted to him, made over his portion to Ferdinand for an annual pension. This transfer was no sooner made, than

the Christian monarch possessed himself of his purchase; and the traitor who transferred it, was received into his army, where he became a passive spectator of the surrender of his native city, and the humiliating consequences of his fatal and unprincipled ambition!



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