

CHAPTER THE NINTH.

BOABDIL'S EXCESSES.—CONTRAST BETWEEN THE TWO
POWERS.—CONFLAGRATION IN THE SPANISH CAMP.
—CITY OF SANTA FE FOUNDED.—CAPITULATION OF
GRENADA.—REFLECTIONS.

AFTER the transfer made by the unprincipled Zagal, nothing remained to the Moors but Grenada, in which Boabdil, maddened by disappointments, was venting his fury indiscriminately on all orders of his subjects. By these excesses, Ferdinand was encouraged to throw aside the mask he had worn so long, and lay open claim to the fleece for which he had thus far only indirectly contended. Under pretence of a treaty to that effect, he summoned Boabdil to deliver up his capital, giving him at the same time to understand, that his refusal would only draw down the heaviest punishments upon himself and his people.

Boabdil denied the existence of the alledged treaty in the

most unqualified terms, and accompanied his denial with the strongest reproaches and protestations against the perfidy of the claimant. But both reproaches and protestations were now equally ineffectual. The doom of Grenada had been long sealed in the Spanish cabinet. The definitive fiat had been issued, and the devoted victim of royal perfidy and injustice had only the choice of two alternatives, either to resign his kingdom without a struggle, or to stake his last hope upon the precarious cast of war. He accordingly preferred the latter ; and his determination was no sooner announced than the Catholic monarch at the head of sixty thousand men (for his army had been by this time considerably augmented,) proceeded to lay siege to Grenada in form.

This city, as we have already observed, was surrounded with a very strong wall, flanked by a thousand and thirty towers, and by a variety of other stupendous works all equally calculated for defence. She contained besides upwards of two hundred and sixty thousand inhabitants capable of bearing arms, and among these most of her distinguished warriors ; all rendered more furious by despair, a principle, which, under any other leader than Boabdil, must doubtless have rendered them invincible.

But misfortunes seem to have impaired the intellects of the infatuated monarch. As his power declined, he became more

furious, consigning his most faithful adherents to the sword of the executioner, upon the slightest and most frivolous pretences. By these violences, he had drawn upon himself the contempt, as well as the hatred of his subjects; who nicknamed him in derision *Zagoybi*, or the Little King. Thus one spirit of disaffection pervaded all the tribes; but particularly the tribe of the *Abencerrages** the most powerful of any, and *Alfaquis* and *Imans* loudly predicted the approaching dissolution of the empire; an event certainly too obvious to require the predictions of either *Imans* or *Alfaquis*. How, indeed, could it be otherwise? All respect for the royal authority had vanished, all the bonds of union were broken; what then could be done to avert the intended blow? What even could ward it off for a season? What, but that rooted dread of Spanish bigotry and superstition which the *Moors*, surely not without reason, had always harboured?

While these ill omened symptoms manifested themselves within the walls of Grenada, how opposite the scenes which presented themselves without? There all was union, all mildness and harmony, all one settled calm. There the efforts of all uniformly tended to one central point, and the spirits of the soldiery were of course proportionably elated. They contemplated their past successes with wonder and astonishment,

* Note (X).

regarding them as so many miracles, that had been wrought in their favour, and as an earnest of preternatural encouragement to the completion of their glories. They saw themselves headed and led on by chiefs whom they adored ;—by Ponce de Leon, Marquis of Cadiz ; by Henry Guzman, Duke of Medina Sidonia ; by Mendoza, Aguillar, Villena, the renowned Gonzalvo,* and a clustre of other heroes, under whose banners they deemed themselves invincible.

But to complete these encouragements, their courage was further animated by the presence of the Queen. Isabella, whose affability and numberless graces were calculated to excite admiration, as her virtues were to command esteem and veneration, had joined the army of her husband, attended by the Infant and her other children, and by the most splendid court at that time in Europe. Exclusive of her many great and transcendent qualities, this princess was a perfect mistress of her temper, which, though naturally severe, she could modulate at pleasure ; and aptly adjust to the exigences of the moment.

No one understood better than she did, the art of qualifying and softening the rigors of military duty by a judicious alloy of pleasing and seasonable recreation. To heighten the

* Note (Y).

charms of the summer nights, (which in that climate are beyond description delightful,) she had introduced into the camp, dances, tournaments, and the various other pastimes then in vogue. Every where it was the Queen who presided. Praise from her lips was considered as the most flattering mark of remuneration. It was coveted and received as such by the meanest soldier, and borne by him as a badge of proud and honourable distinction. Under her auspices in short every thing flourished and was productive; and, as if to second her happy exertions, abundance pervaded the camp, dispensing the treasures of her ample horn, and infusing hope and confidence in every bosom.

In the city, on the other hand, all was cheerless, gloomy and forbidding. The spirit of concord had abandoned it. Hope had resigned her place to despondency, and all courage was enervated and palsied by jealousy, by mistrust, by consternation, and the petrifying aspect of approaching famine.

Ferdinand, who was aware of what was passing, did not chuse to risk the lives of his people wantonly, by being too eager after a prize, which he knew would, ere long, devolve to him without a struggle. He determined, therefore, to proceed gradually, and converted the siege into a blockade, which continued for nine months. During the greatest part of this term, he was particularly careful not to hazard an action,

contenting himself either with watching the movements of the garrison and repelling their occasional sorties, or with battering the ramparts and keeping them in continual alarm.

While he was intent upon this plan, an accident occurred, which at any other season might have been productive of the most fatal consequences. A fire broke out at night in the Queen's tent, and as this, like all the others, was formed of the dried branches of trees interwoven or laced together, the flames spread with such rapidity, that, in the course of the night, the greatest part of the camp was consumed. Fortunately for the Spaniards, the accident had no further result, than the loss of a part of their baggage. On the second day succeeding this event, order was completely restored, and the Queen, to convince the enemy that the siege would not be quickly raised, directed on the instant a city to be constructed on the scite of her former camp.

This extraordinary and grand conceit, every way worthy the genius of Isabella, was executed with such dispatch, that, in less than eighty days, the whole was completed and walled in, and the army quietly established in the new habitations. This city still exists under the name of Santa Fé; the name originally given to it by the illustrious foundress. When this work was completed, the Spaniards began to act offensively,

by seizing some new posts, interrupting the enemy's convoys, and committing various depredations in the neighbouring mountains.

Thus Boabdil found himself not only harrassed perpetually, but daily more and more circumscribed. At length, being defeated in all the skirmishes that took place under the walls of the city, being cut off from all hopes of succour from Africa, and further exposed to all the multiplied horrors of famine, he was reduced to the necessity of proposing a capitulation, of which Gonsalvo de Cordova was appointed to regulate the articles.

The principal stipulations in this famous treaty, were, that the gates of the city and fortresses of Alhambra and Albazin should be delivered up within sixty days. That Ferdinand and the kings of Castile, his successors, should be acknowledged the liege sovereigns of Grenada, and Boabdil do homage to him accordingly: that all Christian slaves should be liberated unransomed. And finally, that five hundred children of the principal families should be delivered up, within ten days after the signing of the treaty, as hostages for its ratification.

In return for these concessions, it was agreed, that the

Moors should retain their horses, their arms, with the exception of cannon or other artillery, and their properties entire: that they should keep also the half of their mosques, be allowed the free exercise of their religion, and preserve their judges, laws and customs; that they should be exempted from all taxes and imposts for the term of three years, to commence from the ratification of the treaty; and, at the expiration of this term be subjected to no others than those they had heretofore paid their kings: that such as wished to pass into Africa, or elsewhere, should retire unmolested with their effects, and be supplied with the vessels requisite for their transportation free of all expence. And finally, that a rich and fertile district in the Apulxares should be allotted to Boabdil, which he might retire to or dispose of at pleasure.

Such was the capitulation of Grenada! a capitulation which, it is scarcely necessary to add, professed too much to be scrupulously adhered to. The treaty was on the point of being broke on the very evening after it was signed, the Imans having spirited up the people to make one desperate effort to save their city, or, in case of failure, to bury themselves under its ruins. The discovery of this plot determined the dastardly Boabdil to deliver it up before the stipulated term. Accordingly, under the pretext of complimenting Ferdinand with a magnificent present of a sabre enriched with diamonds and

two horses splendidly accoutred, he sent a letter informing him of the projected plot, and inviting him to take possession of the capital, which he gave him to understand he would be ready to deliver up on the following morning.

It is hardly possible to describe the joy of the army when the contents of this letter were made public. Ferdinand received it on the first day of the year fourteen hundred and ninety, and on the day succeeding, having placed himself at the head of his forces, which were formed in order of battle, he began his march towards Alhambra.

Never had a more brilliant or grateful spectacle been exhibited to the Spaniards. The cavalcade was headed by the king, and, a few paces behind, came the queen and royal children. These were followed by the great officers of the household and the principal grandees of the kingdom; all decorated with their different insignia and dressed in their most splendid and costly habits. In short the whole line of march was one continued glare of gold and jewels.

As soon as the procession appeared in sight of the Alhambra, Boabdil, escorted by fifty horse and the principal officers of his court, went out to meet it. When he approached Ferdinand, he dismounted and offered to kiss his hand, which

ceremony, however, this latter dispensed with. The humiliated and degraded prince is then said to have addressed his master as follows :

“ Great king, our destiny is in your hands. We deliver
“ up our city and kingdom to you, both equally belonging to
“ you of right, and we commit ourselves and our families to
“ your clemency.” At the conclusion of this address, he presented the keys of the town and castle to the king, who presented them in his turn to the queen. From her they were passed over to her son Don Juan, who delivered them to the Count de Tendrilla, the newly appointed governor of Grenada.

These, and the other requisite ceremonies being ended, Boabdil quitted his capital, and, within a few days after, began his journey to the district that had been allotted him, accompanied by his family, and (such is the fate of fallen majesty !) by a very inconsiderable body indeed of his former attendants. From the summit of Mount Padul, which commanded an entire view of Grenada, he turned to take a farewell view of that justly celebrated city, and the tears were observed to trickle silently down his cheeks. “ My son,” said his mother Aixa, to him, “ you may well bewail, like a woman, “ the loss of a throne, which, as a man, you had not courage “ to defend.”

As soon as the necessary preparations could be arranged, the two monarchs made their public entry into Grenada, between a double range of soldiers, and under one incessant roar of artillery. During the whole of the ceremony the houses to appearance were deserted, the Moors having secreted themselves in the most retired parts of them to conceal their tears and their despair. The grand mosque had been converted for the occasion, with the usual ceremonies, into a church. Thither the monarchs proceeded to celebrate a Te Deum in thankfulness for their transcendent successes; and, while the service was performing, the marquis of Tendrilla, the new governor, caused the cross to be displayed triumphantly, between the standards of Calatrava and St. James, upon the highest pinnacle of the Alhambra.

Thus fell the justly celebrated city of Grenada! Thus after a period of seven hundred and ninety two years, computing from the conquest, terminated the empire of the Moors in Spain!

It may not be amiss to notice in this place some few of the causes which conduced to their decline and final overthrow. The first must undoubtedly be sought in the character itself of the people. In that love of novelty, that eternal restlessness and inconstancy which disposed them to change their governors so often and upon such frivolous pretences. By

this master infirmity, factions were multiplied, discord and divisions perpetuated, and those energies, which should have been directed to one common centre, suffered to diverge, and to be wasted in idle and destructive conflicts among themselves.

They had further to blame that extravagant turn for magnificence and shew, which was so prominently conspicuous in all their pleasures and pursuits ; in their feasts, in their shews, their buildings, and even their wars. These expences, which were not only enormous, but excessive beyond all bounds, were so many constant drains upon their treasures ; and these were felt the more severely, because the wars in which they were almost always engaged, gave no leisure to the country, notwithstanding its extreme, incredible fertility, to repair the wastes which they occasioned.

But, above all, the Grenadians wanted good laws ;—the only solid basis of national establishments and prosperity. Their government was a despotism ; a species of government invariably weak and ricketty, upon which no political nostrum has ever yet been devised to confer either moderate strength, or reasonable stability. Under the iron rod of the despot, man knows no ties of kindred, no country, no affections. What patrimony or interest can the sage or statesman claim

in his knowledge or his virtues? In knowledge and virtues which carry with them no assured prospect of permanent benefit to himself or his family, which must inevitably entail either envy or jealousy, or both, upon the unfortunate possessor, and at last, too frequently conduct him either to death or to perpetual imprisonment. Thus circumstanced, virtue and talents are treasures which the possessor must hoard up; which though he may amuse himself in contemplating privately, he can rarely bring into circulation so as to increase the public stock either of moral or intellectual enjoyments.

But these defects, so obviously conducive to the ruin of the Moors, were qualified by principles of humanity, benevolence, and magnanimity, for which even their Christian enemies cannot deny them praise. Though less expert in the art of war, and less disciplined than the Spaniards, in battle they were to the full as calm and brave, and in an attack perhaps superior. Adversity never depressed them long. They regarded it as a kind of manifestation of the divine will, and as such submitted to it without repining or complaint; which perhaps is partly imputable to their received notions of fatalism.

The Moors of Grenada, being rigid observers of the Mahometan law, practised charity in its utmost extent. They not only gave bread and money to their poor, but shared

with them a portion of their fruits, their grain, their flocks and merchandize. Their sick, whether in town or country, were always assisted with equal tenderness and humanity.

They were also particularly observant of the laws of hospitality. This duty, at all times a most sacred one among the Moors, was always rigidly adhered to at Grenada. The Grenadians did not confine themselves to the ordinary and circumscribed practice of it, but made it their particular pursuit, and seemed to take a singular delight in conforming to it through all its ramifications.

Such were the celebrated Moors! Such the people so much calumniated by historians! By bigots blinded by prejudices, fanaticism or ignorance, who either did not know how to appreciate, or were base enough to deny them the inheritance of, these sublime virtues! It is to authors of this stamp that such of this unfortunate nation as remained at Grenada, have to impute the severe and unparalleled persecutions instituted against them. The part of the treaty which pretended to secure them their form of worship, was almost instantly infringed by the Spaniards, and numbers of them even compelled to abjure their faith by terrors, torments, and every species of indignity.

Irritated by these faithless vexations, this cruel and sense-

less mockery of all public faith, the persecuted and unhappy people rose upon their oppressors, thinking to exact by force what had been most unjustly denied to their humbler supplications. But all their efforts were ineffectual. Ferdinand marched in person against them, and massacring many of those whom he thought fit to term rebels, compelled above fifty thousand others to seek protection under the cloak of apostacy, and embrace doctrines which they insurmountably detested.

These persecutions were zealously revived by Charles the Fifth and Philip the Second, the immediate successors of Ferdinand; informations, tortures and all the inquisitorial refinements of cruelty being practised for the conversion of the unconvinced Musulmans. Such were the arguments resorted to, to gain proselytes to a faith, by which persecution is positively prohibited, and whose amiable and characteristic attributes are charity and brotherly forbearance. To conclude this disgusting recital, the property of this unfortunate people, that property which stood guaranteed upon the basis of solemn treaties, came at last to be considered and treated as so much authorized plunder, the most trifling pretexts, the flimsiest charges being admitted legal grounds for seizure and confiscation.

Roused by these harsh and oppressive vexations; and in-

stigated by despair, the Moors once more sought redress by arms, and amply retaliated on the Christian priests, who were justly regarded as the arch-contrivers of their sufferings. On this occasion they chose Mahomet ben Ommiad, descended from the Ommiades, as their king. Under this leader many desperate battles were fought in the Apulxares, which almost always terminated in favour of the Moors. But this bright dawn in their fortunes was soon overcast. After a reign of two years, Mahomet was basely murdered by one of his own people. The same fate unhappily attended his successor, and in consequence of these losses, the Moors were compelled to resume a yoke, which, by their ineffectual resistance, was rendered infinitely more galling and intolerable than ever.

Finally, Philip the Third banished them entirely from Spain, and the depopulation occasioned by this impolitic and perfidious edict gave a wound to the Spanish monarchy under which it has always smarted, the effects of which it feels at this day. Near one hundred thousand of the unhappy exiles were suffered to pass into France; where Henry the Fourth, no less good than great, caused them to be treated with all possible humanity. A very inconsiderable proportion of them was, till lately, to be met with in the Apulxares, where they gave silent but damning evidence against the inactivity and indolence of their tyrants. But the far greater part returned

to Africa. There their descendants of our day drag on their miserable existence under the savage despot of Morocco. But, while they groan under this ordeal of African caprice and barbarity, they still call to mind, with bitterest regret, the paradise they have forfeited, and set apart every Friday to do homage to their prophet, and pester Heaven with ineffectual, but no doubt fervent prayers for their speedy restoration to Grenada!!!



JUNTA DE ANDALUCIA

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

END OF BOOK IV.

APPENDIX

TO THE

FOURTH BOOK.

NOTE (A). *Arm of Grenada, &c.*

THIS kingdom, part of the ancient Bœtica, was once inhabited by the Bastuli, Sexitani, &c. It is about seventy leagues in length by thirty wide. The principal rivers are, 1st, the Zenil, which rises above the city; and after watering the country round Loxa, enters Andalousia. 2nd, The Rio Fio, so called from the coldness of the waters. These take their source in the mountains of Alhama, in the heart of Grenada; and discharge themselves in the Mediterranean near the Port of Torres. 3rd, Guadalquivirijo, or Little Guadalquivir, which rises at Munda, and loses itself in the sea at Malaga. 4th, The Guadalentin, which has its source in the environs of Guadix, and takes a serpentine course running from west to east, as if expressly going out of its way, to serve the little kingdom of Murcia. 5th, The Darro, whose waters are said to be very salutary to all animals that frequent them. For this reason they have been called the flocks bath. “Vulgo autem bal-

“neum pecoribus salutiferum dicitur, eo quod hæc aqua
“omnia morborum genera in animalibus curet.” Vid. De-
script. Grenad. George Bruin, Francis Hagenburg. The
river takes its names from the golden sands over which it rolls,
quia dat aurum. When Charles the Fifth visited Grenada
with the empress Isabella in 1526, the city presented him with
a crown made of the gold that was collected in the Darro.

Grenada is intersected in all directions by lofty mountains,
interspersed in most beautiful and delicious vallies. Of these
the Apulxares, from whose lofty summits the coast of Barbary
and the city of Tangiers are discernible, are the most deserv-
ing notice. It is in the heart of these mountains that they
say some remnants of the unfortunate Moors are still to be
met with, who, we are told, inherit the active and industrious
spirit of their ancestors. They cultivate the vine with success,
making a considerable quantity of excellent wine; for which,
as well as their choice fruits, they find a market at Velez
Malaga and other parts of the neighbouring coasts.

The Apulxares are 17 leagues in length, measuring from
Velez Malaga to Almeria, and about eight in breadth. They
abound in fruits of immense size, and exquisite flavour and
beauty.

The principal cities of Grenada in our days, are Grenada,
Guadix, Bassa, Guescar, Loxa, Santa Fé, Alhamar, Ante-
querra, Estopa, Velez Malaga, Almeria and Malaga.

Grenada had twenty gates of entrance. The gate of

Elzera, of Bibelmazach, or Conversation, because it served, like our Exchange, for a rendezvous for the merchants. The Gate of Viverambla, leading to a famous place of that name which is still to be seen. Bibracah, or the Gate of Provisions; Bitaubia, or the Hermit's Gate, leading to divers cells and solitudes frequented by these venerable fathers. Biblacha, or the Fish Gate; the Gate of the Mills; the Gate of the Sun, so called because it opened to the east; Alhambra; Bid Adam, or the Bones of Adam; Bidlieda, or the Gate of Nobility, *which the Moors kept long shut from an old prediction that the enemy which was one day to subvert their laws and religion would enter by that gate*; Fauxalauza; of the Almond Trees; of the Lions; of the Coasts; of the Banners or Standards, now the Magdalen Gate; of the Moraqua; and one or two more.

NOTE (B). *Little kingdom of Murcia, &c.*

This is the smallest of all the kingdoms, of which the Spanish monarchy is composed. Its principal cities are Murcia, Carthagen, and Lorca. It produces great quantities of silk at this day, for which it is beholden to the Moors, who not only introduced the mulberry tree, but taught the Spaniards how to rear the worm and prepare the silk. Murcia is said to contain more than three hundred and fifty thousand mulberry trees, and to produce annually about two hundred and fifty thousand pounds of silk. Antecedent to the arrival of the Moors, this capital was comparatively but an insignificant village wholly eclipsed by Carthagen. It

was indebted for its subsequent celebrity to these conquerors, in whose possession it remained about six hundred and fifteen years.

The Moors did not attack this city till they had reduced Cordova, Malaga, Grenada, and Jaen; and when they did attack it, insignificant as it then appeared, they met with a sturdy resistance. The Murcians sallied out bravely to meet their assailants, and the two armies engaged in a plain, which, on account of the bloody battle that ensued, is called at this day Sangocina, the name then given it.

The Spaniards or Goths fought so obstinately that the greatest part was left dead on the field of battle. In this extremity the governor ordered the gates to be made fast and all the women to present themselves on the ramparts dressed like men, while he himself went out to propose articles of capitulation. By this stratagem he obtained advantageous terms, the Moors concluding from the numbers they saw parading on the walls that the city was prepared for a desperate resistance, and of course their success doubtful. Though the stratagem thus practised could not be concealed from them, they still adhered to the treaty.

Murcia was recovered from the Moors in the year twelve hundred and forty-one by Don Ferdinand, son of Alphonso.

NOTE (C). *Sealed the doom of the city, &c.*

THE Romans in granting the privileges of a colony to this city called it Julia Romula. By the Goths, it was called Hispalia, by the Arabs or Moors, Isbellia. It is said to have been founded by Hercules, and has upon the gate called the Flesh Gate, leading to the market, the following inscription :

Condidit Alcides, renovavit Julius Urbem,
Restituit Christo Fernandus tertius Heros.

Many statues, both of Hercules and Cæsar, are still extant in this city. Of the many Hercules, noticed in fables, two are said to have certainly visited Spain; the Lybian and the Theban. The latter in particular we are told came to Cadiz with the Argonauts, and proceeded thence to Gibraltar, and founded the city of Heraclium. This Hercules is supposed to have lived near twelve hundred years after the one which has been so much celebrated for his strength, his courage, and his twelve labours. To which of them, if either, we are to attribute the merit of founding Seville, it is impossible to say. But there are those who pretend to be convinced that the Lybian Hercules died at Cadiz.

The lands round Seville were in high cultivation in the times of the Moors, and the country so remarkable for its fertility, that it was called Hercules's garden. Its principal production was oil, and when it fell to Ferdinand it was said to contain near one hundred thousand oil mills. The environs are very

agreeable at this day; but, can they be compared to what they were in the times of the Moors, when one hundred thousand towns, villages and hamlets were to be reckoned round Cordova? This number is now reduced to about two hundred, and consequently the population in proportion, for which Roderigo de Caco endeavours to account in his celebrated History of the Antiquity of Seville.

“ The population and number of settlements under the “ Moors,” says this ingenious author, “ are to be traced to “ the dispositions of the people, who, being extremely sensual, increased and multiplied wherever they found themselves.” Does our author forget, or did he not think it expedient to recollect, that since the times of the Moors, a very considerable and pious class of men has been condemned to celibacy, and even bound themselves to it, under the strictest vows, whose labours in other countries, where no such sentence is passed, are crowned with complete success, and found extremely useful to population; and who certainly cannot, with the slightest shadow of reason, be deemed a sensual order of men.

NOTE (D). *Alphonso the Sage, &c.*

IT was this prince that said jestingly, If he had been of God's council when he created the world, he could have given good advice. A pleasantry certainly not very indicative of his right to the epithet with which he had been complimented! He is said, however, to have been a great astro-

nomer, and gained credit by the Alphonsine tables. His collection of laws, *Las Partidas*, proves at all events that he had the welfare of his people at heart. It is in this collection we find the following remark from a king of the thirteenth century. "The despot either bleeds the tree too much, or kills it. The patriot monarch prunes and protects it."

NOTE (E). *Imperial crown, &c.*

ALPHONSO was elected in twelve hundred and fifty seven, but too far removed from Germany, and too much occupied with the dissensions in his own kingdom to be able to support his election. In twelve hundred and seventy eight, he made a journey to Rome to plead his cause before the sovereign Pontiff. The Pope, however, decided in favour of Rodolph of Hapsburg, the stock from which the house of Austria claims its descent.

NOTE (F). *Sancho continued, &c.*

THE elder brother of this prince, Ferdinand, called De la Cerda, was a mild and virtuous prince; he left two children, both very young, by his wife Blanche of Castile, daughter of Saint Louis, king of France. It was to deprive these children of the crown that the ambitious Sancho took arms against his father. He succeeded indeed, but the princes, who were protected by France and Arragon, occasioned great disturbances

in Castile, and if they did not actually cause, at least furnished the pretext for a great deal of bloodshed.

NOTE (G). *Into Andalousia, &c.*

THIS kingdom is divisible into two parts, the Upper and the Lower. It obtained its name from the Vandals. The Romans called it *Boetica*, from the river *Boëtis*, now the *Guadalquivir*, that runs through it. It is about one hundred leagues in length, by sixty in breadth, and, what has always added much to its importance, occupies about sixty leagues of coast. It is not only the largest province in Spain, but the most abundant in flocks and mines. Above all it has been particularly famed for its excellent breed of horses, the most esteemed of which come from the environs of *Baeza*.

The principal cities of Andalousia are *Seville*, *Cadiz*, *Cordova*, *Jaen* and *Ecija*. It has, besides, many towns and villages. But it has many large districts uncultivated at this time, being one of the kingdoms which has suffered most by the edicts against the Moors.

NOTE (H). *Rival Cordova, &c.*

THIS city has no traces of her ancient grandeur except what are to be discovered in the great square, and amid the mouldering rubbish of the celebrated mosque completed by *Abdelzamin*. This mosque was converted by the Spa-

niards into a cathedral, or church, part of which is only now remaining. But, such as it is, nothing could excell it in point of grandeur, if the width corresponded with the extent. It has at this time seventeen doors of entrance, all decorated in Arabesque, or other ornaments in bronze. The arch is supported by three hundred and sixty pillars in alabaster, jasper, or marble, each pillar thirty feet high, by one and a half in diameter. The proportions are certainly not Grecian! In this building a little chapel is still preserved, in which the Alcoran is said to be deposited. It is full of Cordovian inscriptions. The Cordovians believe, and take great pains to make travellers believe, that the Moors pay every year a tribute to Spain, to prevent any Christian images being placed in it.

NOTE (I). *The Gate of Judgment, &c.*

OVER this gate are the following inscriptions:

“ This gate called the Gate of Judgment,—God grant
 “ for its existence felicity to the Believers,—was erected by
 “ our Lord, King and Emperor Abulhaggeh, son of
 “ the warrior King, the Just Abelqualid, the son of Nazar.”

“ May God grant his blessing on the works he con-
 “ structed for the benefit of our nation, and take this
 “ building, raised for his glory, under his protection!”

“ God strengthen the foundation and the period of its
 “ elevation in the memory of posterity!”

On the side of this inscription are two marble plates containing the following short sentences in Arabic :

“ Praise be to God.”

“ There is no other God but God, and Mahomet is the Prophet of God.”

“ Without God all strength is vain.”

Above these inscriptions we see a key and a hand (of which I shall treat more fully in Note S), contenting myself for the present with observing, That the key and the hand are the great symbols of the Musulman faith. The Alcoran mentioning, or alluding every where to “ The all-powerful hand of God, which conducts Believers in the true way ;” and “ The key of God which opens the gates of religion and the world.”

Among the Hebrews and Arabs, the tribunals of justice were always at the gate, and it is on this principle that in Asia, when speaking of Constantinople, the distinguishing terms of the Port, and the Sublime Port, are always used.

NOTE (K). *Foreign to our purpose, &c.*

The palace was built with the money Charles extorted from the Moors under the pretence of allowing them liberty of conscience. They advanced sixteen hundred thousand ducats at two instalments, for which they obtained promises

indeed in plenty, but nothing more; being forced to apostatize, or, if they refused, exposed to the most unmerciful persecutions.

NOTE (L). *The Mescar, &c.*

THE Mescar or Mesuar, now called los Array Janes, was paved with large square panes of white marble, half of which are now destroyed, and the remainder overrun with moss and weeds. You see in the centre a straight bason, almost the length of the court, which is an oblong square. At the two extremities are four slender Gothic columns supporting two handsome galleries, the walls of which are adorned with figures dividing many Arabian letters, which, joined together, form different sentences. Such as

“ God is the sovereign good. The great Director of
the universe. He is full of goodness and compassion,
for those who are themselves compassionate and good.”

“ God alone is conqueror.”

“ Honour and prosperity to our lord Abdallah.”

On the outside of the gate opening to this apartment, we read the following:

“ If thou admirest my beauty without thinking of God,
the fountain of all goodness, I tell thee it is folly. But
if thou art mindful to shew reverence where it is due,
thou mayest turn thy admiration to thy profit. — Other-
wise God can inflict death upon thee.”

M M

Again,

“ O thou, who regardest this marble so pure, so admirable for the beauty of the workmanship, and for its whiteness, be attentive to its preservation, and that it may long retain its present perfection, protect it with thy hand and thy five fingers,” (vide Note S).

NOTE (M). *And to the heart, &c.*

THE Generaliffe is said to have been constructed by a prince of the name of Omar, who used to retire thither to indulge in his favourite recreation. The word signifies the house of love, dancing and music. From the mountain on which this charming palace was built, the waters spout in torrents in every direction, forming beautiful cascades or fountains in the gardens, the courts, and the very halls. Over a window in the hall of entrance we meet the following :

“ This window at the entrance of this happy palace is dedicated to the pleasure of the nobility. The charming prospects it affords, delight the eye and exalt the soul. Let us give thanks to God.”

In another part,

“ Charming palace ! how noble dost thou appear !”

“ Thy splendour vies with thy majesty.”

“ Thy light enlivens and decorates all around thee.”

“ Thou art worthy all praise.”

“ Thy aspect is divine.”

“ Thy gardens are adorned with flowers, sending forth
 “ constantly the sweetest perfumes from the stocks on
 “ which they repose. The friendly breeze moves thy
 “ orange trees to diffuse around the rich odour of their
 “ blossoms. There is music in the rustling of thy thickets.
 “ Every thing around is full of harmony and beauty.”

“ Abulgali, thou best of kings, protector of the law
 “ and of all true believers! thou art the great object of my
 “ esteem and veneration. This apartment, dedicated to
 “ thee, is so perfect, and so solid, that its duration can only
 “ be measured by that of our holy sect. It is the triumph
 “ of art, and the prodigy of genius.”

NOTE (N). *The Summoned, &c.*

HE received his surname from the following circumstance. In a paroxysm of rage, to which the best of kings are sometimes subject, he condemned two brothers of the name of Carvajal, who were accused of murder but not convicted, to be thrown from a high rock. The persons thus sentenced made the most solemn protestations of innocence to the last; but finding all their protestations vain, they appealed to God, and cited their judge to appear in his presence within thirty days, to answer for this criminal abuse of his power. It is said that exactly at the expiration of this term, Ferdinand, then on his march against the Moors, was found dead on his bed where

he had retired to take his afternoon's siesta. This incident was regarded by the superstitious Moors as a judgment!!!

NOTE (O). *An asylum at Tariffe, &c.*

THE Moors besieged Tariffe after it had fallen into the hands of Sancho the Brave. It was during this siege we find an example of Stoical firmness and inflexibility equal to any in the Greek or Roman history. The besiegers having taken the son of Alphonso de Gusman, the governor, in a sortie, conducted him under the walls, giving his father to understand that he should be instantly put to death if the fortress was not surrendered. The inflexible governor hearing this threat threw a dagger off the walls and withdrew. Scarcely had he turned his back, than he heard a loud groan from the ramparts. What is the matter, demanded the Stoic? The Moors, replied an officer, have murdered your brave son. Is that all? said Alphonso, then God be praised, I was apprehensive they had found their way into the city.

NOTE (P). *Algeziras, &c.*

THE name signifies an island, and such this city is. It is surrounded entirely by the river Xucar and accessible only by stone bridges. The environs produced a considerable quantity of fruits, rice and grain of every kind in abundance. The sugar cane was also cultivated here with great success, but, as

sugar has been since obtained from the West Indies at a cheaper rate, the culture of this most grateful luxury has been abandoned.

NOTE (Q). *Ines de Castro, &c.*

PETER would have been entitled to compassion, if his love for Ines had not made him so cruelly vindictive on her murderers. The offenders were three principal lords of his court, Gonzalez, Alphonso, and Coëllo. When the murder was committed he was only prince of Portugal, but no sooner did he ascend the throne than he prevailed on Peter the Cruel to deliver Gonzalez and Coëllo, who had withdrawn to Castile, into his hands. He then caused them to be put to the cruellest tortures in his presence, and, having stretched his vengeance in this respect as far as it could go, ordered their hearts to be torn from them alive. Pacheco escaped into France.

After taking this inhuman satisfaction on her murderers, Peter directed the funeral of Ines to be solemnized with the greatest pomp. The body was clothed in regal robes, and a crown placed upon her livid and disfigured forehead, and all the grandees of the kingdom compelled to do homage to this offensive compound of putrefaction.

NOTE (R). *Celebrated writers, &c.*

WHEN Grenada was taken, Cardinal Ximenes ordered all the copies of the Alcoran that were found to be burnt, and the ignorant soldiery, being eager to obey this order, committed all the manuscripts that fell in their hands indiscriminately to the flames, supposing them all copies of the Alcoran. Thus through ignorance, or superstition, or perhaps both, many valuable works on various branches of science were probably destroyed.

NOTE (S). *Judicial astrology, &c.*

WE remarked in note (K), that the key and the hand were symbols of the Musulman faith. The key among them is pretty much the same as the cross with the Christians, the great badge of their faith. It had the same functions and the same power over the gates of heaven as the key of St. Peter. Thus we find in the Alcoran, "Is not God equally compassionate towards those who write of him, and those who believe in him? Does he not give his legate the power of heaven which is on high, and the fire that is beneath? Does he not give him *the key*, together with the office and *title of Porter*, that he may open the gates of the heavenly mansions to the elect?"

The key was the blazon or coat of arms of the Andalousian Moors, and it was actually borne on their banners when they invaded Spain.

But further, do we not know that Gibraltar or Gibraltath, as it was called by the Moors, received that name because it was as the key which opened the communication between the Mediterranean and Atlantic? Thus the key in the Alhambra may be regarded either as only a simple shield, or as symbolical of the Musulman faith.

The hand which is placed near the key seems to have been placed there equally emblematically, and to have three distinct significations. First, it signified Providence. Secondly, It was considered as a Prototype or abridgment of the law. Its third signification was wholly superstitious.

The hand they say has five fingers, reckoning the thumb as one, four of which have three joints, and the fifth only two. All these are subordinate to the unity of the hand, which is taken to signify the unity of the godhead. As the hand according to this mode of computing contains five fingers, so the Mahometan law contains five fundamental principles. Belief in God and his Prophet, prayer, charity, fasting during the month Rhamadan, and pilgrimage to the temples of Meccha and Medina. Thus then the five fingers may be considered as so many Rosaries intended to remind the Musulman of his several duties!

Each of these dogmas has its modifications corresponding with the joints of the fingers. The two joints in the thumb are considered as emblematic of faith and good works. The others are corresponding emblems of other duties. All these modifications, however, end in the unity of the Godhead, which

the Musulmans have always in their mouth " La-Ellah-Ela-
" Allah," There is no other God but God.

With respect to the third and superstitious signification of the hand, it is to be remarked, that the Arabs were and are still convinced from its structure, that, being an abridgement of their religion, it became a powerful protection against the enemies of their faith; insomuch that the hand when open had the power of appalling or weakening an enemy. They further held that it gave an insight into futurity, enabling those who knew how to cast certain figures upon it, and to vary these figures according to the course of the planets, stars, or the different constellations, not only to foretell events, but to work miracles and enchantments at pleasure.

But does not the hand seem to be held in similar estimation among Europeans even in this more enlightened age? Is it not regularly referred to by our ordinary fortunetellers, as a kind of index or *key*, to their various predictions? Do not chiromancers pretend that every man's destiny is there inscribed? Have not the lineaments, which nature has placed there for her provident purposes, furnished out matter for numberless volumes?

Even in our day the Spanish women, like the African negroes, affix bracelets ornamented with little fingers in ebony, ivory or coral, round the necks or arms of their children, expressly to protect them against enchantments! A superstition certainly derived from the Moors.

NOTE (I). *Subsequiturque decor, &c.*

" IN all she says, in all she does,
 " So many charms Aïxa shews,
 " We can't admire too highly ;
 " But where's the wonder she excels ?
 " The lovely wanton works by spells ;
 " The Graces aid her slyly.

NOTE (U). *The Abencerrages, &c.*

IN Grenada, the tribes were never confounded. Each had its chief, who was generally the eldest descendent in the male line. The city at this time contained no fewer than thirty distinct tribes, among the most illustrious of which, were the Abencerrages, the Zegrís and Vanelas, the Gomelas, the Maliques Alibes, Almorades, Abidbais, Ganzals, Abenamans, Aliators, Redouans, and Aldoradins.

The Abencerrages were descended from the brave Abenzahó, who accompanied Moussar when he invaded Spain. The Zegrís and Vanelas were descendents of the kings of Fez. The Gomelas from Velez de Gomera, and the Maliques Alibes from the kings of Fez and Morocco.

NOTE (W). *A marriage brought about, &c.*

ISABELLA was first betrothed to Don Carlos, Prince of Vienne, elder brother of Ferdinand, whose life and misfortunes are interesting subjects in Spanish history.

She was afterwards demanded in marriage by many other Princes, by Alphonso King of Portugal; by the Duke of Guienne, brother of Louis the Eleventh, King of France; by the brother of our King Edward; and she was actually affianced to Don Pacheco, Grand Master of Calatrava; but she very wisely chose for herself.

As her match with Ferdinand was strenuously opposed by her brother, she was necessarily obliged to conduct it with great secrecy. The management of it was committed to Carillo Archbishop of Toledo, a man whose life was one tissue of intrigues.

The Archbishop contrived to carry off Isabella from her brother's court, and placed her at Valladolid, at which city Ferdinand met her in disguise, attended only by three or four gentlemen, and the ceremony was conducted without any parade. On this occasion, it is worth remarking, that the young couple, who were destined one day to possess the treasures of the New World, were forced to borrow money from their attendants to defray their expences.

Isabella was a few years older than Ferdinand. Her com-

plexion was rather of the olive cast, but not so much as to take off from the charms of her face, which was both pleasing and interesting. She was under the middle size; her eyes had a tinge of green in them, but were extremely lively and expressive; her hair was a fair flaxen.

Ferdinand was of the middle size; his skin dark, his eyes black and piercing. He was sedate and grave in his carriage, and sober in the extreme, restraining himself to two meals, and never drinking more than twice at each meal.

NOTE (X). *The Abencerrages, &c.*

BOABDIL, upon a false charge advanced against one of this tribe, Mahomet Ebn Zurat, of holding a criminal correspondence with the Queen, had caused many of them to be treacherously murdered in his palace. This fact is recorded in an Arabian manuscript, which I have thought worth giving here, for a kind of singularity in the description.

“ In the name of God the All-merciful! the fountain of all
 “ mercies. Praise be to the Most High. There is no other
 “ God but God. He upholds the good and protects them;
 “ He persecutes and punishes the wicked; He abhors liars
 “ and all evil-doers; He wishes nothing but what is good.
 “ Evil originates with the tempter, who artfully insinuates it
 “ into the heart of man, and man foolishly suffers himself to be
 “ misled by it. It is then he becomes the child of the devil,
 “ who works in him, making his will his own.

“ God has blessed his creature with wisdom, and given him
“ a high sense of rectitude, and if man is not blinded by
“ pride or envy, he can never wander from the right path.

“ The Devil placed envy in the heart of Zulim Zegrís,
“ because Mahomet Ebn Zurrah was exalted in the sight of
“ the King his master. He hated even the family of Ebn
“ Zurrah, who were powerful and rich, and good, because
“ their virtues shone forth like the stars in a summer’s night.
“ Ebn Zurrah stood always at the side of the King, and the
“ Queen had named him her councillor, because the truth
“ never departed from him.

“ Zulim Zegrís and Hazem Comel came to the King, and
“ said, ‘ O King, dost thou not know that the Queen hath
“ dishonoured thy bed with Ebn Zurrah, and that it is he
“ who conspireth against thy throne? Renounce thy Queen,
“ unless thou meanest to renounce thy life and kingdom.’

“ And the King spake not hereof to the Queen, but called
“ unto him Ebn Zurrah, and his tribe, and in one day caused
“ eighty-six of them to be beheaded. Insomuch that, if God
“ had not been compassionate to protect innocence, not one
“ Abencerrage would have survived that day.

“ And the Queen trusted her defence to the Christians,
“ and noble and valiant Christians came forward to vindicate
“ innocence, before the King and in the presence of all his
“ people. They fought manfully against her accusers, and
“ God put courage into their hearts and strength into their



“ arms, because they fought for the truth. They conquered
 “ each the vile accuser against whom he contended, and the
 “ last of the vanquished Zegrís, the provoker of this horrid
 “ plot, finding himself ready to yield up his wicked spirit,
 “ caused himself to be carried near the King and Queen, and
 “ spake the truth, confessing that envy had poisoned his soul,
 “ and induced him to say the thing that was not. And as
 “ soon as he had made this confession of his wickedness, he
 “ died.

“ And the Christian champions of the Queen, were in
 “ danger of being all taken and slain, but God delivered
 “ them. Not wishing an event so horrible in its nature, in
 “ which God’s justice has been so transcendently manifested,
 “ to be forgot, we have hereunto set our names :

“ ABDALLID MUSACH,
 “ SELIM HAZEL GAZUL,
 “ MAHOMET ABN OMAR.”

NOTE (Y). *Renowned Gonzalvo, &c.*

FERDINAND towards the latter part of his reign became so
 jealous of Gonzalvo’s virtues, that he made a voyage to
 Naples expressly to bring him from thence ; being apprehen-
 sive, that as he was viceroy, if he sent him simply an order to
 return, the people might not only be reluctant to part with
 him, but even tempted, as a tribute to his merits, to place him
 upon the throne of that kingdom. When his services were no