

NOTES.

'P. 7, l. 14.—“ *The faith of the compassionate and the resigned.*”

Mohammed, the warrior-prophet, was far from being the monster of cruelty he has been represented by many writers. He often forgave personal injuries and insults, and spared the vanquished. In magnanimity he certainly surpassed King David or King Solomon, as his conduct in the Holy Temple evinced. Instead of slaying Kaab, the son of Zohair, at the sacred shrine, he embraced him, and taking off his own mantle, placed it upon the man who had been one of his bitterest enemies. He had the temerity to appear before the prophet, in the mosque at Medina, when he was engaged in exhorting the people. When he ceased, Kaab recited some verses he had composed in the chief's honour, and the mantle which they won him was afterwards purchased by one of the khaliphs from the poet's family at an immense price, and was borne in public only on the most solemn occasions. Nor was the prophet's death unworthy the character and authority which he had acquired by his splendid actions during his life.

P. 91, l. 22.—“ *Unhallowed conflicts of the children of Allah.*”

Mariana, Garibai, Ferrerai, and Zurita, are among the Spanish chroniclers to whom most credit has been thought due. In eloquence and learning the first of these may be said to vie with the Roman Livy, but all are, less or more, influenced in their representations by the prejudices of their country. Thus the Arabic writers make no mention of the great battle of Tours. Hidjazi simply observes, that Charles Martel, beholding the Arabs in France, was

unwilling to engage them in the hope that they would quarrel and destroy each other. "In short," he adds, "the Arabs of Damas and of Yemen, the Berbers, and the Modarites attacked each other, and thus lost the conquest of France." The princes of the dynasty of the Almoades, in the 12th century, forbade the annals of their reign to be written, under pain of death. Novari instances a case in which an author was put to death for making the attempt. The *Civil Wars of Granada*, by Perez de Hita, may be pronounced almost as much a romance as the well known *Romancero General* itself. His pictures of character and events are all highly coloured and extravagant, but convey a more vivid impression than do the more authentic historians.

P. 149, l. 9.—"By the zealous Bishop of Jaen."

No less than three bishops fell in battle against the Muselmāns in the great fight of Albakara in 1010, namely Arnolfo Bishop of Vic Accio Bishop of Barcelona, and Otho Bishop of Girona.

Jaen, the capital of one of the four kingdoms of Andalusia, is six leagues from Anduxar. In the vicinity we find a great number of Roman inscriptions, which are a proof of its antiquity. The country between these two cities is extremely fertile, and has a fresh and beautiful appearance in seasons which are not too dry.

P. 163, l. 2.—"The gallant English knight, Lord Scales."

Besides the Earl of Rivers, a number of English knights had, at different periods, sought the grand arena of the Moorish wars. Mariana informs us, that the city of Algesiras was taken from the Moors of Granada in 1344, and he especially mentions some Englishmen of distinction who came to assist at the siege in 1443, namely, the Counts of "Arbid" and of "Soluzber," most probably the Earls of Derby and Salisbury; and Knighton expressly says, that the Earl of Derby was there. X. *Script.* 2583.

The father of English poets, Chaucer, alludes in his Prologue to the far-famed siege.

"In Gernade at the sieghe eke hadde he be
Of Algesir, and ridden in Belmarie."

Prol. p. 9, l. 57.

P. 189, l. 18.—“ *Added to the horrors and ferocity of such a contest.*”

The history of African monarchs, like that of all kings and conquerors, abounds in descriptions of horrors and crimes which make the blood run cold. Abou Ishak, of the race of the Aghelebites, destroyed all his brothers and put his own children to death. His mother, feigning that his daughters had been destroyed according to his orders, one day took an opportunity, when he was regretting he had no longer any children, to acquaint him with the real fact. He appeared overwhelmed with joy, embraced them with every mark of fondness, but in the course of a few hours the chief eunuch received his commands to bring him their heads.

Muley Abdallah, father of Sidi Mohammed, last king of Morocco, was one day saved from drowning by one of his slaves, who congratulated himself on having performed so pleasing a duty. Muley overheard him, and drawing his sabre, “ Does the infidel think,” he exclaimed, “ that God required his aid to save the life of his khaliph?” and instantly beheaded the unlucky slave.

Among the attendants of this monarch was an aged servant, who appeared to be the only exception to the general destruction which he dealt around him, and to him he appeared to have been always strongly attached. One day in a kind and frank spirit, he entreated of the old man to take with him two thousand ducats and retire from service, lest he should one day kill him like the rest. But his faithful servant only embraced his knees, beseeching that he might remain, as he did not in the least dread any act of the kind. The king with difficulty consented; and as the poor man was one day stooping in the act of executing some order, he was suddenly impelled by his old thirst of blood to seize his scymitar, and, telling the wretched man that he had been very foolish not to mind what he had told him, he gave him the *coup-de-grace*.

P. 245, l. 6.—“ *Of the famed house of Lara.*”

The story of the seven sons of Lara, has been celebrated by the Spanish historian and poet of every age. They were the warlike offspring of Gonzalvo Gustos, nearly related to the counts of Castile and lord of Lara. His brother-in-law had conceived a

violent hatred against his nephews; he persuaded their father Gonzalvo to go as ambassador to the King of Cordova with letters, in which he secretly advised him to put the bearer to death. He next betrayed his seven nephews into a Moorish ambuscade, in which, after the most heroic exploits, they all perished. The barbarian then sent the heads of the brave youths to Cordova to be presented to their father, who, at length, when old and broken, was set at liberty. He found an avenger when he little hoped for it. During his captivity he had a son by a Moorish princess, called Mudarra Gonzalvo. He grew into a noble warrior, sought and challenged the unnatural persecutor of his family. He slew him and carried his head to the aged and weeping Gonzalvo, who adopted him as his legitimate heir. From him sprang the house of Lara, and the Moriscoes of Lara pretend to trace their origin to the same source.

[The Author regrets that want of space should prevent him from giving the noble Ballad on this subject, and that on Alonzo d'Aguilar,—the gems of Mr. Lockhart's Spanish Ballads. He may say the same of the "Rio Verde," and other beautiful little pieces by our sweet and impassioned poetess, Mrs. Hemans.]

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