

luted by the dead of two great contending nations. The territory of Granada was eighty leagues in length from Gibraltar to its northern boundary, and thirty leagues wide. There were three fine harbors. There were very rich mines. Two small Moorish States would not join them and soon fell under Spanish power. And revolts among the people of Granada so hampered their King Alhamor that he was obliged to become a vassal of Ferdinand, and even join him in conquering Seville. The banished inhabitants, 100,000, took refuge in Granada. Some years of peace following, their wealth increased. They had a standing army of 100,000 men, and a large corps of warrior knights. In 1252 or thereabouts Alphonso died, and in 1273, the King of Granada passed away, leaving new rulers upon the thrones.

Mohammed II. took the crown of his father, and during his reign the world-famous palace of the Alhambra was built beside the old fortress of Alhambra. The Moors had no special system of architecture, and the exterior of their buildings was not attractive, but within they were lavish of pillars, frescoes, and other ornaments. Mohammed III. came to the throne of Granada; the Spanish States warred against him, Ferdinand IV. took Gibraltar and expelled its inhabitants. As they were marching out an old man passed the King. Said he, "King of Castile, what injury have I done thee or thine? Thy great grandfather drove me from my native Seville; thy grandfather Alphonso drove me from Xeres; thy father exiled me from Tariffe; I came to find a grave at Gibraltar; thy hate pursues me here; tell me where on earth I can die unmolested by the Christians."

"Cross the sea," answered the Prince, and sent the man to Africa.

After Isabella of Castile married Ferdinand of Aragon, and the two kingdoms became one government, they deter-

mined to root the Moors out of Spain. City after city fell until Granada alone remained. The Spanish King laid siege to this in 1491. The city had two hundred thousand inhabitants. The siege lasted nine months. Boabdil retired to Africa January 1st, 1492. The royal pair entered Granada in triumph and the Moorish power had ended, after having lasted 782 years in all, including both the Arabian-Moorish and African-Moorish dynasties.

The Moors were a peculiar people; they were both tender and cruel, delicate and barbarous. The women were wonderfully beautiful, graceful, and slender. They had long, black hair, snowy teeth, scarlet lips; were bright and lively in conversation, and like Turkish women dressed in long linen robes. They live no more as a separate people, but are merged in the Arab races of the Barbary States.

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AGNOSTICISM.

"A soul clear from prejudice, has a marvelous advance toward tranquility and repose."
—*Montaigne*.

"A tumultuous life is pleasing to great minds, but those who are mediocre have no pleasure in it; they are machines everywhere."
—*Pascal*.

SONNET.

You point the child to A. B. C., and o'er
And o'er again the symbols mark, 'till he,
Uncomprehending, learns their shape to see,
And in his growing memory to store—
The *open sesame* to learning's golden door;
Quick as the lightning's flash your wrath would
be
Should he in sequence fail to master D,
And answer "I don't know," and nothing
more.
Like Poe's dread Raven,—lo! the reptile
knows—
The tiger affirmation gives—the bird
Leaps to his matin song—all nature spurns
The dullard blind and deaf—She overflows
With positive, sweet music, only heard
By him who from an inward seeing learns.

ELIZABETH OAKES SMITH.