

character. The queen, in her distress, implored the Almighty to spare a life so important to the welfare of the kingdom and of the Church, and instead of it to accept the sacrifice of her own. Heaven, says the chronicler, as the result showed, listened to her prayer.⁴⁰ The king recovered ; and the queen fell ill of a disorder which in a few days terminated fatally. Her remains, after lying in state for some time, were transported with solemn pomp to the Escorial, where they enjoyed the melancholy pre-eminence of being laid in the quarter of the mausoleum reserved exclusively for kings and the mothers of kings. Such was the end of Anne of Austria, the fourth and last wife of Philip the Second.

⁴⁰ " El efecto dijo, que oyó Dios su oracion : pues mejorando el Rey, cayó mala la Reyna." Florez, Reynas Catholicas, tom. ii. p. 913.

END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.