

he cast his eyes towards the Spanish Peninsula, full in sight, and then in possession of the Goths.

He gazed on a country on which the sun never sets—a climate and soil, mild, rich and salubrious. The standard of Mahomet floated from the confines of the Black Sea to the pyramids of Egypt, through Ethiopia and the whole of the north of Africa. Benazir determined to pass over to the Peninsula; to carry his victorious arms across the Pyrenean mountains; to pass through France, Italy and Greece; to regain the Dardanelles, and thus encompass both shores of the Mediterranean.

Of the antiquity of Spain it is, perhaps, needless to say much. Sea-faring people traded to the Bay of Gibraltar as early as the days of Abraham, and that Patriarch died 1821 years before the birth of Christ, which, would make it more than 3586 years since *Carted* was built and Gibraltar made a seaport. It was occupied by the oldest nations: the Phœnicians long held possession of Cadiz and all Andalusia.—Hannibal conquered it, and it was finally wrested from the Carthageneans by Publius Scipio, 172 years before Christ, which ended the second Punic War, and the Romans held possession of Spain for 600 years, when they were finally expelled by the Goths.

Spain was called in Hebrew Sapphara, and probably originated from the Hebrew Shefena, from Shafanor Span, a rabbit; the country abounding in those animals. In the time of King Solomon that country and probably France, paid tribute to the Jewish nation, as it is mentioned by Rosnage, that in the town of Tagunto in Spain, a tombstone was found bearing an inscription in Hebrew, thus:—

"This is the tomb of Adomram, an officer of King Solomon, who came to raise the tribute and who died the day," &c.

There can be no doubt that Spain was tributary to Solomon, as he collected from that immensely rich country most of the treasures employed in building the temple. Another Jewish body was also found at Sagunto, in Valencia, bearing the following inscription:—"This is the Sepulchre of Oran Naban, the Governor, who rebelled against his master." God supported him, and his glory lasted with the reign of Amaziah. Solomon, it is affirmed, sent fleets to Spain and the ports in Andalusia.

This country, so venerable for its antiquity, and singular vicissitudes, possesses double interest with me, having passed over its fertile plains and rugged mountains, and been on spots consecrated by great events.

Cæsar, in his official character as Questor, had been at Cadiz, and admired the Statue of Alexander, in the temple of Hercules, lamenting that at his age Alexander had conquered the world, while he had done nothing as yet to commemorate his name. It is something for an American to say, I have stood upon the same spot where Cæsar stood. In reference to this official visit paid by Cæsar to his government, which included Portugal and Andalusia, it may be well here to recount an anecdote. Like many of the present age, the creditors in Rome arrested him for debt just as he was setting forth to enter on the duties of office, and Crassus became his security for the enormous sum of 830 talents, upwards of 175,000 dollars, and to show the wanton extravagances of those rulers, and the public money seized upon and squandered by the Despots of those days. Cæsar by imposts, forced loans and other direct measures, collected in Spain sufficient money to pay all his debts in Rome on his return, amounting to nearly eight millions of dollars. The reign of the Goths and Vandals in Spain is a history of itself; after holding the country for centuries, their barbarism and cruelty and crime hastened its downfall, and the fate of Roderic, their last King, has been the theme of history, poetry, and romance.

When the Romans became weakened by dissensions and broken down by extravagance and effeminacy, Alaric, King of the Goths, attacked them in their very capital, and the Vandals, Surves, and Silings, surfeited with victory over the Gauls and Germans, poured down upon Spain, like an avalanche and these Barbarians, unlike any nation that ever existed, carried fire and sword, wherever they went, and destroyed the very towns and cities that they had selected for their own occupation.

Gonderic, in the year 425 after burning and pillaging every town and hamlet in Carthage, destroyed every thing on the road to Seville—took that place, and put every man, woman and child to the sword.

Our Creeks and Seminoles were gentle as doves in comparison with this nation of wild boars of the forest.

They dashed into the province of Estremadura and destroyed Toledo and the country bordering on the Tagus; robbed the people of Lisbon of all their moveables; carried fire and sword through Andalusia, (then called Vandalusia) and Gallacia; pillaged all the churches, drove the poor people into caves and mountains, and, in fact, with war, pestilence, and