

CHAPTER II.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF SPAIN.

The Clergy.—Their Subordination to the Crown.—The Escorial.—
Queen Anne.

A REVIEW of the polity of Castile would be incomplete without a notice of the ecclesiastical order, which may well be supposed to have stood pre-eminent in such a country and under such a monarch as Philip the Second. Indeed, not only did that prince present himself before the world as the great champion of the Faith, but he seemed ever solicitous in private life to display his zeal for religion and its ministers. Many anecdotes are told of him in connection with this. On one occasion, seeing a young girl going within the railing of the altar, he rebuked her, saying, "Where the priest enters is no place either for me or you."^{*} A cavalier who had given a blow to a canon of Toledo he sentenced to death.^{*}

Under his protection and princely patronage, the Church reached its most palmy state. Colleges and convents—in short, religious institutions of every kind—were scattered broadcast over the land. The good fathers loved pleasant and picturesque sites for their

^{*} "Vos ni yo no avemos de subir donde los Sacerdotes." Dichos y Hechos de Phelipe II., p. 96.

^{*} Cabrera, Filipe Segundo, p. 894.