

THE SPANISH CAVALIERS.

A TALE OF THE MOORISH WARS IN SPAIN.

CHAPTER I.

BEGINNING AND END OF THE MOORISH POWER IN SPAIN—
GRANADA AND ITS VICINITY—SIEGE AND CAPITULATION OF
THAT CITY.

RODRIGO, the last king of the Goths, had wounded Count Julian in his sweetest paternal affections, and the latter, to avenge the outrage, called in the aid of the African Moors. Led on by Tarik-ben-Zeïad, those barbarians landed on the coast of Algesiras in the month of April, 711, and possessed themselves of Mount Calpa, the present Gibraltar.

Rodrigo marched against them with all his forces, and attacked them near Xeres de la Frontera. The battle lasted two whole days, without any signal advantage to either side; but on the third day, Tarik, recognizing the Gothic king by his royal mantle, rushed upon him and pierced him with his lance, then cut off his head.

The death of that prince decided the contest. The Goths