

re orders to the whole force. Several times the Spaniards attacked this eminence and were repulsed; they began to retreat in disorder, when the Archbishop of Toledo threw himself in the midst of the contending troops, followed by Alphonso and the flower of his army, and the route began. Arragon and Navarre had already turned both wings of the Mussulman force, the iron chain was broken, and the Emperor of Morocco and his army fled, leaving the Christians masters of the field.

Historians all agree, that the battle of Toloza was a fierce and bloody fight, in which 100,000 Mussulmen were slain, and a very small portion of the immense army that left Africa ever returned. Mahomet fell back on the town of Andalusia, which held out against the Christian powers, and soon afterwards crossed to Africa, where he died neglected, and the Mussulman power was divided into three agencies, Tez, Algiers and Tunis.

The Moors, after their defeat at Toloza, still possessed Valencia, Murcia, Granada, and Andalusia in Spain; the most populous and fertile provinces, with several sovereigns, the chief of which was Benhaud, a valiant and formidable chief. The Christian kings of Spain, France and Portugal, were again divided and quarrelling on minor points; for as often as they conquered the Moors, they quarrelled among themselves.

Two young and ardent kings however arose at this period, determined to allow no internal dissensions to divide them until the Moors were subdued. These were James the first, king of Arragon, and Ferdinand the third, king of Castile and Leon.

Ferdinand marched into Andalusia and captured all the important towns and cities, and James marched into the kingdom of Valencia, stormed and took all the fortresses. Benhaud in the mean time was strengthening himself in Andalusia, and the brave Alphonso, king of Leon, the hero of many wars, at an extreme old age, put himself at the head of an army, attacked and defeated Benhaud, and captured Merida and Badajoz. After numerous battles and sieges in which the Moors suffered severely, Ferdinand compelled Cordova to capitulate, after that renowned city had been in the possession of the Moors for 522 years.

Instead of proclaiming protection to property, to religion and personal rights, the Christians sacked every house and palace, and drove the enlightened and highly esteemed Moorish families into exile, and the indiscreet Ferdinand found himself master of a superb city, without

inhabitants and wandered almost alone through the splendid Mosque and the beautiful pavilions of the Caliphs. Valencia, the rich, the fertile Valencia, built on the banks of the Guadalquivir, and celebrated for its splendor, fell next into the hands of the king—nothing was left to the Moors in all Spain but Seville; destruction had done its work, and the Mussulmen who were unwilling to abandon that beautiful country became subjects of the different kings.

At length however a new star arose, and at a moment when all was lost, a change of events left Spain for 200 years longer in the power of the Moors. Mahomet Alhamar, an Arab from the borders of the Red Sea, fiery and superstitious—brave and at the same time discreet, made his appearance as a leader in Spain, almost when hope had been surrendered. Cordova, the Mecca of the Arabs, was lost, and Alhamar determined to build them a new city—a new rallying place, and founded the Kingdom and Capital of Granada. He selected an admirable spot on two hills; on the summit of each, he erected two fortresses capable of each containing 40,000 men, Albayzin and the celebrated Alhambra. The town was more than three leagues in circumference, strongly fortified and defended by ramparts which contained 1030 towers. It was also built in the most fruitful and rich country in Spain, the mildest in climate, the most luxurious in soil, the most enchanting in position.

This plain, ninety miles in circumference, was the Golgotha of Spain for 160 years: and to recount the battles fought on that spot would form a history of itself. Alhamar to strengthen himself in Granada made a treaty of peace with King of Ferdinand and soon found himself possessed of a large army and immenso revenues; but in 1273 he died; his son Mahomet the 2nd succeeded him. He immediately made a treaty with Jacob, King of Morocco, and passed over the Mediterranean into Spain with an army. These two Moorish Kings divided their forces and attempted to recover Andalusia, Seville and Cordova. Jacob defeated the Christians at Exisa. The King of Granada defeated Don Sancho, Archbishop of Toledo, captured several important places and died in 1302, and his son Mahomet 3d commenced the celebrated Palace of the Alhambra, parts of which are even now the admiration of the world, and which has for ages been celebrated in romance and history.

In 1313 the civil dissensions between Mahomet Abenazar and his minister Faraday led to