

The motives which, after all, operated probably most powerfully on Philip, had no connection with the battle of St. Quentin. His father the emperor had directed by his will that his bones should remain at Yuste until a more suitable place should be provided for them by his son. The building now to be erected was designed expressly as a mausoleum for Philip's parents, as well as for their descendants of the royal line of Austria. But the erection of a religious house on a magnificent scale, that would proclaim to the world his devotion to the Faith, was the predominant idea in the mind of Philip. It was, moreover, a part of his scheme to combine in the plan a palace for himself; for, with a taste which he may be said to have inherited from his father, he loved to live in the sacred shadows of the cloister. These ideas, somewhat incongruous as they may seem, were fully carried out by the erection of an edifice dedicated at once to the three-fold purpose of a palace, a monastery, and a tomb.¹³

Soon after the king's return to Spain, he set about carrying his plan into execution. The site which, after careful examination, he selected for the building, was among the mountains of the Guadarrama, on the borders of New Castile,¹⁴ about eight leagues northwest of be found; though *Escorial*, now universal in the Castilian, seems to have been also the more common from the first. The word is derived from *scoriae*, the dross of iron-mines, found near the spot. See Ford, Handbook for Spain (3d edition), p. 751.

¹³ A letter of the royal founder, published by Siguencia, enumerates the objects to which the new building was to be specially devoted. Historia de la Orden de San Geronimo, tom. iii. p. 534.

¹⁴ "The Escorial is placed by some geographers in Old Castile; but the division of the provinces is carried on the crest of the *Sierra* which rises behind it." Ford, Handbook for Spain, p. 750.