

wealthy spoils. Such
ch the Moors brought
ng with the kine of
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XVIII.

CAVALIERS.—AMBUSH
THE GUADAYRA.—
F GARCI PEREZ.—
MIRAL BONIFAZ ON
—SEVILLE DISMEM-

ers who distinguished
ed siege of Seville,
ed in valor the bold
his hardy knight was
and like a gamester
ave no pleasure of his
stant jeopardy. One
Garcí Perez was Don
the same who had
Garcí Perez at the time
ere attacked by seven
ere not merely com-
; for in this siege it
Christian knights to
f daring enterprise.
Perez, Don Lorenzo
ier, named Alfonso
patrolling the skirts
ntest arose between
dventurous in arms.
s determined to put
y going alone and
ances in the gate of

bravado agreed upon
of their horses and
orish sentinels, from
saw three Christian
plain, and supposed
deserters from the
rs drew near, each
gate, and wheeling
and retreated. The
ornful defiance, were
alled forth in great
ult. They soon were
Christian cavaliers.
ght with them was
fiery and impatient
Garcí Perez; the third
ted until the Moors
e braced his shield,
the whole brunt of
fight took place, for
helming in number,
ie most valiant war-
et was beheld from
given; the Christian
ue of their compan-
squadron pressed
ured out reinforce-
s way a general bat-
great part of the
nquished and driven

es of Seville, called
ch led out to a small
Out of this gate the
at sallies, to fall sud-

denly upon the Christian camp, or to sweep off
the flocks and herds about its outskirts, and then
to scour back to the bridge, beyond which it was
dangerous to pursue them.

The defense of this part of the camp was in-
trusted to those two valiant compeers in arms,
Garcí Perez de Vargas and Don Lorenzo Nuñez;
and they determined to take ample revenge
upon the Moors for all the depredations they had
committed. They chose, therefore, about two
hundred hardy cavaliers, the flower of those
seasoned warriors on the opposite side of the
Guadalquivir, who formed the little army of the
good Master of Santiago. When they were all
assembled together, Don Lorenzo put them in
ambush, in the way by which the Moors were
accustomed to pass in their maraudings, and
he instructed them, in pursuing the Moors, to
stop at the bridge, and by no means to pass be-
yond it; for between it and the city there was a
great host of the enemy, and the bridge was so
narrow that to retreat over it would be perilous
in the extreme. This order was given to all,
but was particularly intended for Garcí Perez,
to restrain his daring spirit, which was ever apt
to run into peril.

They had not been long in ambush when they
heard the distant tramp of the enemy upon the
bridge, and found that the Moors were upon the
forage. They kept concealed, and the Moors
passed by them in careless and irregular manner,
as men apprehending no danger. Scarce had
they gone by when the cavaliers rushed forth,
charged into the midst of them, and threw them
all into confusion. Many were killed or over-
thrown in the shock, the rest took to flight, and
made at full speed for the bridge. Most of the
Christian soldiers, according to orders, stopped at
the bridge; but Don Lorenzo, with a few of his
cavaliers, followed the enemy half way across,
making great havoc in that narrow pass. Many
of the Moors, in their panic, flung themselves
from the bridge, and perished in the Guadaya;
others were cut down and trampled under the
hoofs of friends and foes. Don Lorenzo, in the
heat of the fight, cried aloud incessantly, defying
the Moors, and proclaiming his name,—"Turn
hither! turn hither! 'Tis I, Lorenzo Nuñez!"
But few of the Moors cared to look him in the
face.

Don Lorenzo now returned to his cavaliers,
but on looking round, Garcí Perez was not to be
seen. All were dismayed, fearing some evil for-
tune had befallen him; when, on casting their
eyes beyond the bridge, they saw him on the op-
posite side, surrounded by Moors and fighting
with desperate valor.

"Garcí Perez has deceived us," said Don Lo-
renzo, "and has passed the bridge, contrary to
agreement. But to the rescue, comrades! never
let it be said that so good a cavalier as Garcí
Perez was lost for want of our assistance." So
saying, they all put spurs to their horses, rushed
again upon the bridge, and broke their way
across, cutting down and overturning the Moors,
and driving great numbers to fling themselves
into the river. When the Moors who had sur-
rounded Garcí Perez saw this band of cavaliers
rushing from the bridge, they turned to defend
themselves. The contest was fierce, but broken;
many of the Moors took refuge in the river, but
the Christians followed and slew them among the
waves. They continued fighting for the remain-
der of the day, quite up to the gate of the Alca-
zar; and if the chronicles of the times speak with

their usual veracity, full three thousand infidels
bit the dust on that occasion. When Don Lo-
renzo returned to the camp, and was in presence
of the king and of numerous cavaliers, great en-
comiums were passed upon his valor; but he
modestly replied that Garcí Perez had that day
made them good soldiers by force.

From that time forward the Moors attempted
no further inroads into the camp, so severe a
lesson had they received from these brave cava-
liers.*

The city of Seville was connected with the
suburb of Triana by a strong bridge of boats,
fastened together by massive chains of iron. By
this bridge a constant communication was kept
up between Triana and the city, and mutual aid
and support passed and repassed. While this
bridge remained, it was impossible to complete
the investment of the city, or to capture the
castle of Triana.

The bold Admiral Bonifaz at length conceived
a plan to break this bridge asunder, and thus to
cut off all communication between the city and
Triana. No sooner had this idea entered his
mind than he landed, and proceeded with great
speed to the royal tent, to lay it before the king.
Then a consultation was summoned by the king
of ancient mariners and artificers of ships, and
other persons learned in maritime affairs; and
after Admiral Bonifaz had propounded his plan,
it was thought to be good, and all preparations
were made to carry it into effect. The admiral
took two of his largest and strongest ships, and
fortified them at the prows with solid timber and
with plates of iron; and he put within them a
great number of chosen men, well armed and
provided with everything for attack and defense.
Of one he took the command himself. It was
the third day of May, the day of the most Holy
Cross, that he chose for this grand and perilous
attempt; and the pious King Fernando, to insure
success, ordered that a cross should be carried as
a standard at the mast-head of each ship.

On the third of May, toward the hour of noon,
the two ships descended the Guadalquivir for
some distance, to gain room to come up with the
greater violence. Here they waited the rising of
the tide, and as soon as it was in full force, and
a favorable wind had sprung up from the sea,
they hoisted anchor, spread all sail, and put
themselves in the midst of the current. The
whole shores were lined on each side with Chris-
tian troops, watching the event with great anxiety.
The king and the Prince Alfonso, with their war-
riors, on the one side had drawn close to the city
to prevent the sallying forth of the Moors, while
the good Master of Santiago, Don Pelayo Perez
Correa, kept watch upon the gates of Triana.
The Moors crowded the tops of their towers,
their walls and house-tops, and prepared engines
and weapons of all kinds to overwhelm the ships
with destruction.

Twice the bold admiral set all sail and started
on his career, and twice the wind died away be-
fore he had proceeded half his course. Shouts
of joy and derision rose from the walls and
towers of Seville, while the warriors in the ships
began to fear that their attempt would be unsuc-
cessful. At length a fresh and strong wind arose
that swelled every sail and sent the ships plough-
ing up the waves of the Guadalquivir. A dead

* *Cronica General de España*, pt. 4. *Cronica del
Rey Fernando el Santo*, c. 60. *Cronica Gotica*, T. 3,
p. 126.