

was a province of his inheritance, crossed the Mediterranean with his army and fell on Alphonso, King of Castile, whom he defeated in 1097. He immediately marched on Seville and laid siege to that city, and while preparing to storm and sack the town, Benabad to save its inhabitants, surrendered himself and family consisting of 100 children and was cruelly sent to Africa in chains, where he perished after living six years in poverty and bondage.

Juseff with all his African ferocity, attacked and subdued all the little sovereigns and governors in Spain and made his power so formidable that the Christians were apprehensive that unless some decided movement took place, their authority in that country would entirely cease. Fortunately for them, it was at that epoch, fashionable to be in love with crusades, and whole armies were flocking to Jerusalem for the charitable purpose of killing the Saracens in the name of that religion, which had uniformly preached peace on earth and good will to man. All the knights and squires however of Christendom could not be accommodated in the armies destined for the Holy Land, accordingly a snug party of amateurs was made up to join Alphonso, consisting of the Duke of Burgundy, and Henry of France.

The Count of Toulouse, with a large force of vassals and men at arms attacked Juseff, and he was forced to abdicate and pass over to Africa, and then commenced again the misfortunes and discomfitures of the Arab power. Alphonso, King of Arragon, conquered Saragossa, and Alphonso the first son of the Duke of Burgundy carried the city of Lisbon by storm, in 1144, and thus was Portugal forever lost to the Mussulmen.

The Kings of Navarre and Castile, after this made an easy conquest of several parts of Spain, and determined to carry their arms into Andalusia. New troubles, factions and divisions arose among the Mussulmen—adventurers and false prophets were daily undermining their power.

In Africa the factions of the Almoravides and Almohades were engaged in constant wars, and could not succor their brethren in Spain. The Kings of Spain and Portugal, unable to agree, went to war; the most bloody quarrels took place among these Christian Princes, which allowed tranquillity to the Moors.—Sancho, King of Navarre solicited the Africans to join him, and in the midst of fresh difficulties Abi Jacob crossed over with an army and besieged Santarem, in Portugal. Alphonso, now an old man, marched to the aid of that

city, and a very fierce battle ensued. Sancho of the Prince, made a sortie, fell on the rear of the Moors and defeated them; Abi Jacob was killed.

Nothing occurred in Africa after this battle until the year 1210, when Mahomet el Nazar, Emperor of Morocco, proclaimed a holy war against the Christians in Spain, and raised a standard of the prophet, to which an immense force repaired, and crossing into Spain, was joined forthwith by all the Mussulmen, who were determined to strike a blow for the recovery of this country. Again was the Christian power and arms greatly endangered.

The Mussulmen force amounted to 600,000 soldiers, and Alphonso the noble, then King of Castile, made a powerful appeal to the Christian Princes of all Europe for succor. Pope Innocent 3d lent his aid. The archbishop of Toledo aroused the faithful in France. Peter the 2d, King of Arragon, took the field; Sancho, King of Navarre, headed a powerful army, and about 60,000 Crusaders, belonging to Italy and France, poured into Spain, and the two great armies met to decide the fate of kingdoms at the foot of the mountains of the Sierra Morena, then known by the name of Las Navas de Toloza. The Emperor of Morocco well organized and well supplied, aware that the battle must be fought in the vicinity of the mountains, took the precaution to occupy the passes in such a manner that escape was impossible; the Christian power must either retreat, which was dangerous, or force the passage of the mountains, which was more dangerous and inexpedient. In this terrible crisis a shepherd declared that he was familiar with a path, which would, unseen, lead them over the mountain. The army followed, and after overcoming immense difficulties, the whole Christian force appeared on the very summit of the Sierra Morena, to the amazement of the Mussulman army in the valley below. On the 16th of July, 1212, the whole army, in three columns, each commanded by a king in person, and in the centre the knights of St James and Calatrava with Rodengo, Archbishop of Toledo, poured down upon the enemy. The Mussulmen in old times, always depended on the cavalry; their infantry was poorly armed and equipped. Mahomet el Nazar had 100,000 horse in fine order; his foot he had assembled in various directions, posting himself on an eminence where he could see and be seen. Surrounding the summit with a chain of iron and a strong cordon of troops, with the Koran in one hand and a drawn sword in the other, he