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THE SPANIARD AT HOME.*

BY THE EDITOR.



A BIT OF ANDALUSIA.

Few things are more sad than the downfall of an ancient dynasty. In the decay and degradation of its later days the pomp and pride and splendour of its prime are forgotten. When the once vast colonial empire of Spain has dwindled into insignificance and seems on the very verge of extinction, it may be well to remind ourselves of its contribution to the world's civilization. Spain's history goes back to the dawn of time. It is the Tarshish of Scripture, and was known to the Phoenicians at least a thousand years before the Christian era. The

*We beg to acknowledge our indebtedness for some of the quotations in this paper to an admirable volume of recent travel in Spain by a United States Consul-General, Alfred E. Lee, and to the "Sketches of Spanish Travel," by Mr. Arthur Griffiths.

language of the Basques seems to connect that remnant of the ancient Iberian race with a still more remote antiquity. It is said to have no terms for cutting instruments which have not their roots from words signifying stone or rock, all words implying the use of metals being borrowed from other and more modern languages. This fact would seem to link the Basques with pre-historic times.

The successive colonies planted by the Egyptians, Phoenicians, and Greeks have all left behind them memorials of their occupation. The Romans, in addition to their enduring public works, have given Spain its magnificent language. The Arabs, though they were ruthlessly banished or burned by