

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

I OFFER NO apology for presenting the SPANISH CAVALIERS to the reader in an English dress. It appears to me well calculated to promote pure and noble sentiments in the youthful mind whilst coming to them in the attractive garb of a story. The period chosen by the author is, perhaps, one of the most interesting in the history of Europe, when the chivalry of Spain was engaged in its last victorious struggle with the infidel Moors. The personages of the story are amongst the brightest names in Spanish history. If France has her Guesclin and her Bayard to boast of, Spain has her *Cid* and Alonzo d'Aguilar; and of all the champions whose swords upheld the Cross in that chivalric age, not one stands forth brighter in historic fame than the hero who fell on the heights of the Bermeja. No nobler model can be presented to Christian youth than that of Alonzo d'Aguilar, whose failing hand planted the standard of the Cross on the topmost height of the