

his father, and one of the greatest men of the age was appointed Regent. Mahomet Almanzar, a brave and efficient General, a sagacious politician, a powerful and acute statesman, but still an intolerant man towards the Christians, and although for 26 years he was their fierce enemy, fought no less than 52 battles, captured and sacked Barcelona, and destroyed the famous Cathedral of Compostella, he by determined hostility towards the Kings of Leon and Navarre and the Count of Castile drove them into a league which finally destroyed the Omiades.

In 993 the christian kings met the invincible Almanzar, the man who had lived fifty victorious years, and defeated him in a bloody battle fought at Medina Celi.

The great chief died of grief; from this moment the christian power in Spain began to be felt. On the death of Almanzar, faction began its reign, and continued for several years. Alackem was deposed, a crowd of usurpers assumed the Caliphate, one day, to be strangled the next; the governors of the Provinces set up as rulers—the glory of Cordova was destroyed, and the Omiades in 1027 ceased to reign, after occupying Spain three hundred years. This was the commencement of the gradual downfall of the Moorish power in Spain.

Spain was now embittered with many dissensions and intestine wars. Toledo, Saragossa, Seville, Valencia, Huesca and Lisbon each had sovereigns, and during many years, battles were fought, cities taken and sacked, crimes of all kinds were committed, and anarchy and confusion every where prevailed.

The christian power did not strengthen during this period; it could not be concentrated, as all these Mussulmen Kings were at the same time engaged in wars with the different christian dynasties, and the Kings of Castile and Leon and the various Dukes and Princes, their allies, were also divided, and some formed treaties with the Mussulman; and at the battle of Albakara in 1010 three Bishops were killed fighting in the Mussulman ranks, Archbishop of Vich Accia, Bishop of Barcelona, and Otho, Bishop of Girona. Alphonso of Castile gave his sister Theresa in marriage to the Moorish King of Toledo, Abdallah.

The heirs of Ferdinand of Castile were robbed of the kingdom by the children of Sancho, and all kinds of crime and all manner of hostilities shook the Christian power in Spain and threatened its entire destruction.

A head, a chief, a central power, was re-

quired at this time to allay these factions. At length, a bright star arose and one of those great men whom Providence destines for important events, suddenly appeared in arms, fighting for the Christian cause and carrying terror and dismay among the Mussulmen.—Roderigo Diaz de Bivar, commonly called the Cid or Chieftain, and celebrated for so many romantic adventures, carried his victorious arms in almost every part of Spain. Every one flocked to his standard and victory always followed his foot-steps. He was the first warrior of the age and one of the purest and best of men. He conquered Huesca and the kingdom of Valencia, and gained conquest after conquest, victory after victory, over the Mussulman. But the proverbial ingratitude of Princes was strongly manifested in his case; he was frequently banished and recalled by Alphonso, and at length, died full of years and honors in the city of Valencia, in the year 1039.

The history and adventures of the Cid would alone fill a volume of the most extraordinary and romantic character. His two daughters married Princes of the House of Navarre, from whom have descended the Bourbons of France and Spain. On the death of the Cid, the prospects of the Mussulmen again revived, and so strongly was the impression that it was impossible to destroy the Moorish power in Spain, that the policy of a national amalgamation was entertained, and Alphonso the fourth actually demanded and obtained the hand of the daughter of Benabad, the upright King of Seville, in marriage, but the ill-assorted alliance weakened both nations.

About this period the Almoravides ruled in Africa, and while the force of the Mussulman in Spain was continually weakened, it remained unabated in Africa; but it was a fierce and unrelenting tyranny, divested of all the accomplishments, learning and liberality that distinguished the Mussulman in Spain.

While Alphonso and his father-in-law Benabad had determined to divide the whole of Spain between them, the little kings and Governors were vexed beyond measure at the alliance between a Christian and a Mahometan Prince, and were apprehensive that unless the tie was broken, Alphonso in time would acquire such strength as to undermine the authority of the faithful. They secretly wrote to Jussef Ben Tessefin, the founder of the empire of Morocco, and the reigning Prince of the Almoravides inviting him to come to their aid. Jussef who contended that as Spain was originally conquered by the Africans from the Goths, it