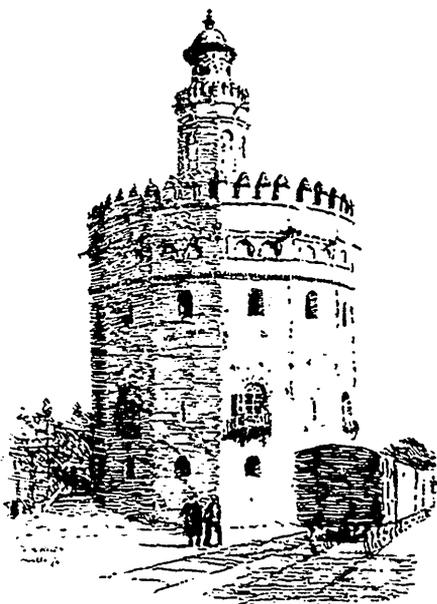


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PICTURESQUE SPAIN.

BY THE REV W. S. BLACKSTOCK, D.D.



THE TOWER OF GOLD, SEVILLE.*

II.

Toledo, however, retains only the shadow of its former greatness. The objects of greatest interest which it contains are the relics of a departed glory. Here, as in many

* So named, according to one tradition, from the yellow tiles with which it is covered; according to another, because in it was stored the gold first brought from the New World.

The admirable drawings of this article are from the accomplished hand of Mr. G. A. Reed, R.C.A.—Ed.

other of the cities of Spain, one is constantly reminded of a golden age which exists no longer except as a tradition or memory of the past. And it is improbable that Toledo will ever again be what it has been in other times. Whatever Spain has gained by the expulsion of the Moor in other respects, it has evidently suffered immensely in the matter of temporal prosperity. Under the dominion of the Moors, Toledo rose to a highly prosperous condition. And, on the whole, it seems to have been wisely and well governed. Christians were protected in the enjoyment of their property and the exercise of their religion. The Jews were, in many instances, raised to positions of great eminence in connection with the administration of the Government and the management of public affairs. The system of agriculture which the Arabs introduced into the country increased immensely its productiveness. Vast tracts of land which would have otherwise been useless were rendered fertile and productive by a comprehensive and wisely constructed system of irrigation.

The Christian conquest of Toledo, in 1085, brought with it the reverse of a blessing. Its prosperity began immediately to decline. Nor can this be greatly wondered at. The conquerors broke faith with the conquered. The terms of