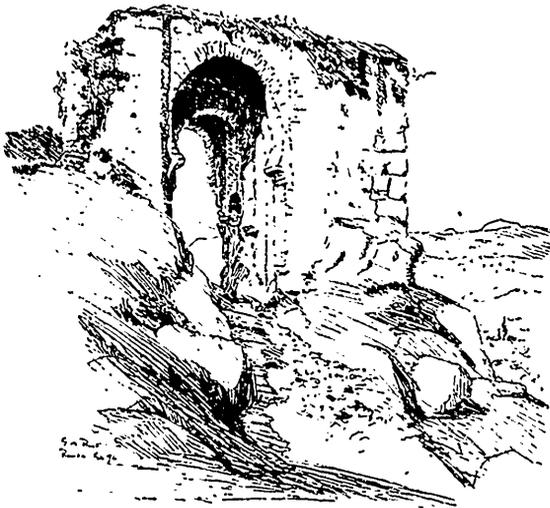


the population, and have given it the Oriental grace and culture which is lacking at the former place.

Of the monuments of Moorish art, space will permit us to mention but two—the Giralda and the Alcazar. The former of these is by far the finest relic of purely Moorish architecture in this part of Spain. This famous tower rises to a height of three hundred and fifty feet from the angle of the Patio de los Naranjos, or court of orange trees, and is surmounted by a vane or wea-



MOORISH GATE, RONDA.

ther-cock (girandola), from which it takes its name. The weather-cock itself is an object of interest. It is the figure of a woman, and so finely balanced is it that, though weighing nearly three tons, it turns at the slightest breeze. Concerning it a recent writer—an ungallant Englishman, and possibly an old bachelor—observes: "Oddly enough, it represents faith, and innumerable are the jokes current in Spain at the expense of the Sevillanos, who have chosen a woman and a weather-cock—the emblems of fickleness and inconstancy—to

represent the virtue which ought to be, before all things, steadfast."

Originally this magnificent tower, which formed a part of the great mosque of Seville terminated in an immense iron globe, plated with burnished gold; and immediately beneath this gilded ball was the gallery from which the muezzin called the people to prayer. Every morning from this lofty perch, three hundred feet above the sleeping city, as the sun began to illuminate the horizon, sounded out the solemn cry so familiar throughout the Moslem world: "Great is Allah! There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet! Come to prayer! Prayer is better than sleep!"

We rejoice in the triumph of the Cross over the Crescent; we prefer even an imperfect form of Christianity to Moslemism; and we earnestly pray for the coming of the day when the pure gospel shall not only be proclaimed, but accepted everywhere, and

"Jesus shall reign where'er  
the sun  
Doth his successive jour-  
neys run."

But we cannot withhold our respect and admiration from these people who, guided by the dim light which was in them, were found every morning waiting for the dawn to begin their devotions. Would that, with a purer creed, we had more of their consistency and devotion.

Standing proudly on a rocky eminence, the imposing grandeur of the site of Toledo, its air of venerable antiquity, and its picturesque Oriental aspect, can scarcely fail to profoundly impress one who sees it for the first time. Vulgar tradition