

palace, which was capable of containing within its circuit forty-thousand men. Of it Prescott says :

"The light and elegant architecture of this edifice, whose magnificent ruins still form the most interesting monument in Spain for the contemplation of the traveller, shows great advancement in the art since the construction of the celebrated mosque of Cordova. Its graceful porticos and colonnades, its domes and ceilings, glowing with tints which in the transparent atmosphere have lost nothing of their original brilliancy, its airy halls, so constructed as to admit the perfume of surrounding gardens and agreeable ventilation of the air, and its fountains, which still shed their coolness over its deserted courts, manifest at once the taste, opulence and Sybarite luxury of its proprietors."

This is as much about the Alhambra as can be compressed into a sentence or two ; for a fuller account of it the reader is referred



THE ALHAMBRA.

to Washington Irving's incomparable description ; but no word-painting, however vivid, can convey to the mind an adequate conception of the magnificence of this venerable pile of buildings. The accompanying cut will give the reader some idea of the interior splendour of one of the many magnificent courts of the Alhambra—the Court of Lions, with its fountain, famous in song and story, which stands to-day as it

stood in the days of Boabdil. Across the ravine yonder, among pompous groves and hanging gardens, is the Generalliffe—a summer palace of the Moorish Kings, to which they resorted during the sultry months. The naked summit above it, where some shapeless ruins are visible from the towers of the Alhambra, is the Silla del Moro, or Seat of the Moor—the retreat of the unfortunate Boabdil, where he took his seat during an insurrection, and whence he looked down mournfully on the rebellious city.

Returning by the way of Cordova and Seville down the Guadalquivir to Cadiz, the traveller finds himself again in the midst of commercial life and activity. Cadiz is a bright and cheerful city. Its houses of white stone, surrounded by Moorish