

carried on from different parts of the kingdom.¹⁸ His thoughts too—at any rate his words—came slowly; and by writing he gained time for the utterance of them.

Philip has been accused of indolence. As far as the body was concerned, such an accusation was well founded. Even when young, he had no fondness, as we have seen, for the robust and chivalrous sports of the age. He never, like his father, conducted military expeditions in person. He thought it wiser to follow the example of his great-grandfather, Ferdinand the Catholic, who stayed at home and sent his generals to command his armies. As little did he like to travel, —forming too in this respect a great contrast to the emperor. He had been years on the throne before he made a visit to his great southern capital, Seville. It was a matter of complaint in cortes that he thus withdrew himself from the eyes of his subjects. The only sport he cared for—not by any means to excess—was shooting with his gun or his cross-bow such game as he could find in his own grounds at the Wood of Segovia, or Aranjuez, or some other of his pleasant country-seats, none of them at a great distance from Madrid.

On a visit to such places he would take with him as large a heap of papers as if he were a poor clerk earning his bread; and after the fatigues of the chase he would retire to his cabinet and refresh himself with his despatches.¹⁹ It would indeed be a great mistake to

¹⁸ Ranke, *Ottoman and Spanish Empires*, p. 32.

¹⁹ "El día que iba à caça bolvia con ansias de bolver al trabajo, como un oficial pobre que huviera de ganar la comida con ello." *Los Dichos y Hechos del Rey Phelipe II.* (Brusselas, 1666), p. 214.—See also *Relazione di Pigafetta*, MS.