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HIGHEST AWARD ST. LOUIS, 1904

Sunday in the Alhambra

Sunday morning in The Alhambra. Though our hotel was within easy reach of the Cathedral of Granada, whose deep, melodious bells rang most invitingly, we had seen a small church, a Moorish mosque, in The Alhambra, and its quaintness, its history begot a wish to attend Mass celebrated on the first altar raised in the citadel of the infidel. Up from the old city, half Moorish, half Spanish in architecture, leads a long winding street that ends at the main entrance to The Alhambra. Something of the Arab's reverence for this "sacred grove" steals over one as he enters and hears the murmuring sound of rushing waters, tastes the clear mountain air permeated with the pungent odor of myrtle and earth-covered roots, sees the forest of trees rising tier above tier, and over all falls a calm that is infinite.

Still upward we climbed, past Moorish fountains splashing gently as when the white-garbed Moor stopped to slake his thirst; past silvery cascades dancing down the moss-covered stones—and then we were entering the Gate of Justice. This tower-gateway is one of the most imposing structures of the many towered ramparts. Its two gates, outer and inner, and connected by a queer winding passage to make defence easy, form a wonderful piece of labor and skill. Above the gate is a statue of the Blessed Virgin holding the Divine Child in her arms. After a long walk between two immense high stone walls with the sky showing like a narrow blue ribbon, we reached the little church, which almost adjoins the unfinished palace of Charles V. Handsome as this latter building is, it is a false note in the grand harmony of Moorish art, crowding its Spanish architecture against the cluster of Mohammedan palaces. There is some talk of the government completing this building, which was begun in 1526, and using it for a national museum.

It is something to have one's expectations realized, but to have them surpass a point where the imagination in its most riotous mood failed to reach, is the lavish mood of pleasure. The Alhambra furnishes. Whether it be the wonderful architecture of the palaces, the exquisite beauty of the courts with their groves of laurel, cypress and oranges, its fortified walls and towers, or the entrancing views from window and parapet, this magnificent stronghold of the Moor reared in the mountain fastness of Spain, is a cup of keen delight heaped full and running over. It took more than a century to build The Alhambra. We first see its massive high walls and its twenty-three towers enclosing the hills of The Alhambra and Alhacian, which together made the center of the Moorish kingdom—then the palaces.

These are a group of buildings indescribably beautiful in the brilliancy of their coloring, delicacy of the slender marble columns, honeycombed vaulting of the domes and the wall decoration of inscriptions of passages from the Koran or some religious poetry. These homes of the Moorish kings, who fostered art, literature and science, and who made so beautiful their seat of power, are marked throughout with the simple dignity of the civilization of the Occident. When King Alfonso, after his coronation, visited Granada, the senoras senioritas of the city's grandees gave a tea for him in the Court of Myrtles. The fountains that play only on the anniversary of the Conquest of Granada flashed their silver sprays in the sunlight, and when the boy-king entered The Alhambra gate a merry welcome was rung from the old watch-tower, where centuries ago the Moors were wont to sound a warning that the Christian enemy was sighted among the hills. Irving used the cool myrtle-edged pool for his morning bath and in the rooms overlooking he wrote romances of the Moor and the veiled princess.

From the Court of Myrtles we wandered into the Court of Lions, which takes its name from the lion fountain made by Christian captives. Nearby is the magnificent audience chamber, the Hall of the Ambassadors. In this room was held the last conference of the Moors before they surrendered the keys to Ferdinand and Isabella. Its ornamentation is considered the richest piece of work in the Alhambra. Through courts and palaces we passed, then went down through an underground passage to the baths that are well equipped with large marble tubs. Besides the

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openings in the wall above the tub to admit fresh air, there are others through which would flow a stream of Oriental perfume to make still more pleasant the morning plunge of these favored sons and daughters of Mohammed. The tubs were easily drained of their contents by a line of sunken tile connected with a stream of running water and rushing down the side of every palace—hence the cleanliness of the Spanish-Moor.

One of the finest views of The Alhambra is to be had from the balcony of the Queen's Combing Tower. Standing there we saw that trio of prison towers overlooking the street walls and at a little distance away a tiny mosque, whose interior is so fairy-like and its niche for the Koran so exquisite in decoration, that it seemed as if it must be but a pretty playhouse built for the amusement of King Midas's favorite child. Sharply cleaving the blue sky is the great Gate of the Seven Floors, the gate through which Bohadil left the conquered city, and which has been walled up ever since, because, so Alhambra tradition says, of the request of the defeated Moor to Isabella. In one of the most lonely and deserted points of The Alhambra is an old mosque that after the exit of Bohadil was converted into a convent and it was there the body of Isabella was laid until its removal to the Cathedral of Granada. This historic building is now occupied by a poor family that earns a livelihood by doing jobs for tourists.

The Alhambra without the Generalife would be like the absence of a beautiful gem from a jeweled cluster. It lies on the side of the mountain, opposite to The Alhambra and was the summer residence of the Moorish princess. The shady cypress walk leading up to the palace is delightful, every bend affording splendid views of the valleys and the mountains, but it is forgotten in the exquisite charm of the gardens of the Generalife with their foliage, terraces, grottos, fountains and murmuring streams. At the highest point is the garden where grows the Sultan's cypress. Over 600 years old, this venerable tree is still as full of vigor as when its dark, drooping branches shaded the wife of Bohadil when she held tryst with one of her husband's courtiers, who paid with his head for that midnight visit. The views from the Generalife are unrivaled, taking in, as it does, The Alhambra and Alhacian hills.

This magnificent summer palace was a gift from Isabella to one of her soldiers who had shown great valor in the fierce fight with the infidel. In after years the descendant of the Spanish crusader, a woman, married a Moor, when the reigning sovereign exiled her and her family to the last generation, but did not confiscate the property which, though marriage, ultimately passed into the hands of the Italians. Spain is fighting through the courts to regain possession of beautiful Generalife.

The government is showing more interest than formerly in The Alhambra and everywhere evidences are to be seen of its efforts to preserve these monuments of the triumph of the Cross over the Koran. The grounds are splendidly lighted with electricity and the palaces and walks well taken care of. Thanks to the Moor's splendid system of irrigation, by which water is piped from the Sierras, the fountains in the grove are never silent, nor the hillside ever barren from drought. A heavy penalty is enforced against the snoring or shooting of the innumerable nightingales who make the grove their home and pay for their leafy quarters by singing an everlasting song. Recently there has been erected a gigantic white marble cross that extends a benison upon the valley below and the mountains beyond, even to where stands the snow-crested Sierra Nevada.

If the cleanliness of The Alhambra makes it a delightful place to stroll and enjoy the surroundings, not so the opposite hill, the Alhacian, which was once the dwelling place of the Moorish aristocracy and which is now one of the filthiest quarters in Europe, not excepting Tangier. It is peopled by the vagrant poor and gypsies, but so superb are the views from its summits and so interesting are the glimpses to be had of Moorish palaces and of the queer streets, through some of which persons must walk single file, that the end repays the means. Not all of the gypsies live on the Alhacian Hill, many of them dwelling in caves at the foot of the Generalife. Of course we saw a gypsy dance; the movements were graceful, but the music was a monotonous tom-tom, the women were homely and the men were fat.

Granada is held by travellers to be the culminating point of a journey to Spain. It is picturesquely situated, lying at the base of two mountain spurs and with the snow-clad mountains to the south-east. Like the Alhambra, it is delightful with its glimpses of the mighty past, Moorish and Spanish. The main thoroughfare, the Street of the Catholic Kings, is of considerable proportions, and recently a new street, extending for several blocks and straight and wide, has been opened. Because of the tearing down of a number of old buildings to straighten the street, an

excellent exterior view of the Cathedral is just now to be had. The Cathedral of Granada is an example of the best Renaissance building in Spain, and is rich in painting and sculpture.

Its greatest interest lies in its being the burial place of the Catholic kings, their daughter, the mad Queen Isabella, and her husband, Philip the Handsome. The iron-bound coffins, which have never been opened, rest in a vault beneath the sanctuary. The royal monuments are a nation's tribute to the house of Castile and Aragon. They are of Florentine marble superbly decorated. A life-size figure surmounts the top of each; Ferdinand wears the Order of St. George, and Isabella, the Cross of Santiago. Opening off the royal chapel is a room where are kept priceless souvenirs of the two who freed Spain from the Moor. There lies the plain little silver crown Isabella wore and seeing which made the contemporary sovereigns wonder at the Spanish queen's poverty; vestments worked by her, also the flag which she made to float over the conquered city; the little silver casket that held the jewels offered to Columbus; the missal and the sacred picture that stood on the altar erected on the battlefield, and the sword and sceptre of Ferdinand.

Catholics in Scotland

According to the new Catholic Directory for Scotland, Mother Church can claim a half million of children in that country, with a handful over. Of these 380,000 belong to the Archdiocese of Glasgow. Thus almost exactly three-fourths of the Catholics of "Alba" are dwellers by the banks of the Clyde and the subjects of Archbishop Maguire. In 1878, the year of the Restoration of the hierarchy, there were but 360,000 lieges of Rome in all the six dioceses of Scotland. There were then 272 priests in the country; now there are 525, well nigh double that number.

The figures given for the missions reveal an increase of ninety in the twenty-eight years. They now stand at 236. But the total number of places that are hallowed by "the clean oblation offered in My name" is larger than this by 150, as in some parishes there are several "stations," having each their weekly or monthly Mass. Of religious houses Scotland possesses sixty-five, and of these, fifty-two are occupied by nuns. Far less than a century ago there was not a religious in the land. Yet the remaining thirteen do not favorably compare, in point of number, with the monastic institutions that, in the Stuart days, studded the country. One day the reign of the cloister will return. The overwhelming majority of Glasgow Catholics, and in a slightly less degree, of Edinburgh's 82,000, are from St. Patrick's Land of Eire by birth or by extraction, and love of the cloister has been ever a tradition with the Celt. Meantime it is the reign of the Heath.

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A NY even numbered section of Dominion lands in Manitoba or the Northwest Provinces, excepting 5 and 29, not reserved, may be homesteaded upon by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section, of 160 acres, more or less.

Entry may be made personally at the local land office for the district in which the land is situated, or if the homesteader desires, he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, the Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, or the local agent for the district in which the land is situated, receive authority for some one to make entry for him.

HOMESTEAD DUTIES: A settler who has been granted an entry for a homestead is required to perform the conditions connected therewith under one of the following plans:

(1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year during the term of three years.

(2) If the father or mother, if the father is deceased) or any person who is eligible to make a homestead entry under the provisions of this act resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for by such person as a homestead, the requirements of this act as to residence prior to obtaining patent may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother.

(3) If the settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by him in the vicinity of his homestead, the requirements of this act as to residence may be satisfied by residence upon the said land.

APPLICATION FOR PATENT should be made at the end of three years, before the Local Agent, Sub-Agent or the Homestead Inspector.

Before making application for patent the settler must give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa of his intention to do so.

SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST MINING REGULATIONS.
Coal lands may be purchased at \$10 per acre for soft coal and \$20 for anthracite. Not more than 320 acres can be acquired by one individual or company. Royalty at the rate of ten cents per ton of 2000 pounds shall be collected on the gross output.

Quartz.—A free miner's certificate is granted upon payment in advance of \$1.50 per annum for an individual, and from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per annum for a company, according to capital.

A free miner, having discovered mineral in place, may locate a claim 1,500 x 1,500 feet.

The fee for recording a claim is \$5.

At least \$100 must be expended on the claim each year or paid to the mining recorder in lieu thereof. When \$500 has been expended or paid, the locator may, upon having a survey made, and upon complying with other requirements, purchase the land at \$1 an acre.

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