

three-legged stool, defended from vulgar eyes by a screen of such old and tattered cloth that the inquisitive spectator might without difficulty see him through the holes in it.¹⁶ He was so near the choir that the monk who stood next to him could hardly avoid being brought into contact with the royal person. The Jeronymite who tells the story assures us that Brother Antonio used to weep as he declared that more than once, when he cast a furtive glance at the monarch, he saw his eyes filled with tears. "Such," says the good father, "were the devout and joyful feelings with which the king, as he gazed on the poverty around him, meditated his lofty plans for converting this poverty into a scene of grandeur more worthy of the worship to be performed there."¹⁷

The brethren were much edified by the humility shown by Philip when attending the services in this wretched cabin. They often told the story of his one day coming late to matins, when, unwilling to interrupt the services, he quietly took his seat by the entrance, on a rude bench, at the upper end of which a peasant was sitting. He remained some time before

¹⁶ "Tenia de ordinario una banquetilla de tres pies, bastísima y grosera, por silla, y cuando iba á misa porque estuviese con algun decencia se le ponía un paño viejo francés de Almaguer el contador, que ya de gastado y deshilado hacia harto lugar por sus agujeros á los que querian ver á la Persona Real." *Memorias de Fray Juan de San Geronimo, Documentos inéditos*, tom. vii. p. 22.

¹⁷ "Jurábame muchas veces llorando el dicho fray Antonio que muchas veces alzando cautamente los ojos vió correr por los de S. M. lágrimas: tanta era su devocion mezclada con el alegría de verse en aquella pobreza y ver trás esto aquella alta idea que en su mente traía de la grandeza á que pensaba levantar aquella pequeñez del divino culto." *Ibid.*, ubi supra.