

the great Abdaram, an ambitious and gallant leader, feeling secure of Spain, determined to carry the victorious standard of Manomet into France, and on the success of this project, rested the fate of all christendom.

Charles Martel, son of King Pepin, and grandfather to the great Charlemagne, a sovereign of great skill and valor, reigned in France and Germany at that time, when countries, however, were torn to pieces by intestine wars. A common danger soon united the several factions.

The Dukes of Equitaine, with Burgundy and Gascony, and with the forces of Austria, prepared to meet this new and frightful enemy.— Abdaram, with an immense force, passed the Pyrenees, captured Bordeaux, Navarre, Perigord, Santonge, and Pictou, and came at once to Tours, where he found and engaged Charles Martel in a most fierce and unparalleled battle, in which it is said five hundred thousand men were engaged on both sides, and three hundred thousand were killed. Abdaram was slain and his whole force routed; and thus was France saved from the control of the Musselman, and Spain, for the succeeding twenty-five years, was a prey to civil factions and constant quarrels with their African neighbors. In the meantime the immense and increasing power of the Mahometans, created much trouble and disaffection at the East among the various caliphs, and governors, and those intriguing for high commands, which gave rise to the quarrels and difficulties between the dynasties of the Omiades, Abbasides, and Barmecides. Haroun al Raschid, surnamed the just, a friend of learning and science, a man of discernment and valor, but not as remarkable for justice and humanity as history would make us believe, destroyed the Barmecide family; the Abbasides held the power for 500 years, when the Tartars, under the reign of Ghengis Khan, destroyed the empire of the Mussulman, and restored the simple power of the Arabs.

Spain no longer a Colony, was erected into a Mussulman Empire, distinct and independent from the Caliphs of Asia and Abdaram the first; the only branch of the Omiades, who had escaped into the deserts of Egypt, was in the year 755 proclaimed Caliph of the East, and established Cordova as the seat of government. Abdaram, a prudent yet gallant chief, had to encounter great difficulties on the threshold of his newly acquired power.

Charlemagne, a man not to be trifled with, had invaded Spain, took Pampeluna and Sara-

gossa, and threatened Abdaram on all sides, but he had penetrated too far into the enemy's country, and determining to retreat, was met and defeated after a desperate fight in the celebrated defiles of Roncivalles. The Christians then abandoned Spain, internal dissensions had ceased, and he commenced giving that glory and lustre to the Moorish character in Spain, which they acquired and long sustained, by their love of learning and their protection to the arts. He made Cordova the glory of Spain, by the erection of that magnificent mosque, now the great Cathedral, which is the admiration of all beholders, even at this day. Part of it only has been preserved, which is 600 feet in length and 200 in breadth, ornamented by upwards of 300 columns of jasper, alabaster and marble, and was entered by bronze gates sculptured in gold. In this magnificent building, 4700 lamps were nightly used, and this mosque was to the Mussulmans what St. Peters at Rome has ever been to the Catholics. In addition to this splendid edifice Abdaram erected schools for astronomy, mathematics, and grammar, erected a superb palace, and invited to that place the learned from every clime. Nothing seemed to interrupt the progress of the arts, or the happiness of Spain for thirty years, when Abdaram died and selected his third son Hackem as his successor.

This Caliph, however, although a liberal and talented man reigned thirty years, which were full of trouble and discord, arising principally from the contests of his own family for the succession, and the crown devolved on his son Abdaram the Second.

This name seemed to be the herald of greatness and was always associated with valor and success; yet occasionally chequered with disasters; for it was during the reign of the Prince that the Christians, under the excellent and brave Alphonso, King of Asturias, attempted to regain possession of Spain, and himself and Sancho, his successor, defeated Abdaram in several battles, and established the kingdoms of Arragon and Navarre. Among the numerous improvements which Abdaram made in Cordova may be mentioned the first establishment of an academy of music. All who have been accustomed to the Mussulman bands of music, must have been struck at this day with their entire want of harmony, unity and cadence; the academy however, founded by Abdaram, which produced the celebrated Monsali, taught those simple plaintive airs accompanied by the lute, which we even now