

# AN ANGLO-AMERICAN ALLIANCE.

A LECTURE DELIVERED BEFORE THE NATURAL  
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Those were the palmy days of Spain, when Ferdinand and Isabella, uniting the crowns of Castile and Aragon, swayed the destinies of a brave and chivalrous people. The Moors, driven from the sunny vales of Andalusia and the vine-clad slopes of Granada; the Cross raised over the glittering domes of fair cities, where long had waved the Crescent; and a new world given to the old, through their enlightened enterprise, were some of the triumphs that graced the career of these remarkable sovereigns. Never is a nation so great as when, oppressed for ages and bound down by the merciless pressure of an unrelenting foe, it has risen in its might, and its swelling energies have burst the fetters that bound it. For eight centuries had the Moslems battered on the fairest portions of Spain, while sheltered by the great bulwarks of nature, the Asturian hills and the fastnesses of the Pyrenees, the conquered people cherished a love of country as pure as the flame of vestal altar, and as unshaken as the granite of their mountain home. Here, in their hardy struggle with nature for sustenance, an energetic race was formed, brave, chivalrous and embodying every manly virtue. While thus amidst the sternest difficulties and fiercest trials, the native Spaniards were gradually disciplined for the supreme effort for liberty, their conquerors were fast becoming enervated on the generous soil and under the sunny skies of Southern Spain. The day of reckoning finally came, and the Christians avenged the wrongs of centuries. Their independence secured, an unwonted energy was imparted to the nation. A spirit of enterprise, discovery and conquest bore it on to the accomplishment of the grandest achievements. Her arms were borne triumphantly into foreign countries, and soon Sicily, Naples and the Lowlands of the North acknowledged her supremacy,