

tinued by the voices of angels, which were heard by all present." These doubtless were the angels which the king in his ecstasy had beheld around his couch, and which now accompanied him, in his glorious ascent to heaven, with songs of holy triumph. Nor was it in his chamber alone that these voices were heard, but in all the royal alcazars of Seville, the sweetest voices were heard in the air and seraphic music, as of angelic choirs, at the moment that the sainted king expired.<sup>1</sup> He died on the 30th of May, the vespers of the Holy Trinity, in the year of the Incarnation one thousand two hundred and forty-two, aged seventy-three years — having reigned thirty-five years over Castile and twenty over Leon.

Two days after his death he was interred in his royal chapel in the Holy Church, in a sepulchre of alabaster, which still remains. It is asserted by grave authors that at the time of putting his body in the sepulchre, the choir of angels again was heard chanting his eulogium, and filling the air with sweet melody in praise of his virtues.<sup>2</sup>

When Alhamar, the Moorish King of Granada, heard of his death, he caused great demonstrations of mourning to be made throughout his dominions. During his life he sent yearly a number of Moors with one hundred wax tapers to assist at his exequies, which ceremony was observed by his successors, until the time of the conquest of Granada by Fernando the Catholic.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Pablo de Espinosa: Grandezas de Sevilla, fol. 146. Cronica del Santo Rey, c. 78. Cronica Gotica, T. 3, p. 166.

<sup>2</sup> Argotti de Molina: Nobleza de Andaluzia, l. 1, c. 21. Thomas Boco: Signales de la Iglesia, l. 29. Don Rodrigo Sanchez, Bishop of Palencia, pt. 3, c. 40.

<sup>3</sup> Pablo de Espinosa, fol. 146.