

DEDICATION.

To His Excellency, Don Christopher de Portocarrero, Guzman Luna, Pacheco, Enriquez de Almanza, Funez de Villalpando, Aragon and Monrey; Count of Montijo, Lord of the town of Moquer; Marquis of Algava, Villanueva del Fresno and of Barcarota; Count of Fuentidueña; Marquis of Valderabano, Ossera, and Castañeda; Lord of the towns of Adrada, Guetordaxar, Vierlas, Crespa and Palacios; Grand Marshal of Castile; Grand Bailli of Seville; Hereditary Governor of the Castle and Fortress of Guadix; Principal Captain of the Perpetual Company of a Hundred Gentlemen attached to the House of Castile; Gentleman of the Chamber to His Catholic Majesty; President of the Supreme Council of the Indies; Grand Esquire of the Queen; Knight of the Illustrious Order of the Golden Fleece; Grandee of Spain; Ambassador Extraordinary of His Catholic Majesty to His Imperial Majesty:

MY LORD,—In presenting the work to your Excellency, I venture to assure you that the subject is truly worthy of you. The obedience and submission of Abraham to the orders of Providence, the zeal and courage of Moses, in leading the Israelites into the desert, the patience and resignation of Job, in suffering the evils by which God wished to try him, and—what is more admi-