

In one particular he indulged in a most lavish expenditure. This was his household. It was formed on the Burgundian model,—the most stately and magnificent in Europe. Its peculiarity consisted in the number and quality of the members who composed it. The principal officers were nobles of the highest rank, who frequently held posts of great consideration in the state. Thus, the duke of Alva was chief major-domo; the prince of Eboli was first gentleman of the bed-chamber; the duke of Feria was captain of the Spanish guard. There was the grand equerry, the grand huntsman, the chief muleteer, and a host of officers, some of whom were designated by menial titles, though nobles and cavaliers of family.³⁰ There were forty pages, sons of the most illustrious houses in Castile. The whole household amounted to no less than fifteen hundred persons.³¹ The king's guard consisted of three hundred men, one-third of whom were Spaniards, one-third Flemings, and the remainder Germans.³²

The queen had also her establishment on the same scale. She had twenty-six ladies-in-waiting, and, among other functionaries, no less than four physicians to watch over her health.³³

The annual cost of the royal establishment amounted

³⁰ *Relazione della Corte di Spagna*, MS.—*Relazione di Badoer*, MS.—*Etiquetas de Palacio*, MS.

³¹ *Relazione di Badoer*, MS.

³² "Ha tre guardie di 100 persone l' una; la più honorata è di Borgognoni e Fiamminghi, che hanno ad esser ben nati e servono a cavallo, e si dicono Arcieri accompagnando bene il Re per la città a piede non in fila, ma alla rinfusa intorno alla persona reale; l' altri sono d'Albardieri 100 di nazione tedesca, et altri e tanti Spagnuoli." *Relazione della Corte di Spagna*, MS.

³³ Raumer, *Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*, vol. i. p. 106.