

mine, left only their own hordes in possession of that fine country.

Generic, after destroying Cartea sailed over Africa to fight the Romans, and assisted on his face to gain many surprising victories.

In 438 King Rachelas defeated the Romans in Andalusia, and destroyed the whole province.

In 614, King Ligibert wrested from the Romans all their possessions in Spain, from Gibraltar to Valencia; and in 624 the patrician general surrendered all Spain to King Suintha, who held that country and also most of the Barbary states.

In 677 the Saracens in Barbary broke ground against the Goths, and annoyed them severely.

Yamba, however, fitted out a fleet and utterly destroyed the naval power of the infidels. For many years Spain was reduced to the lowest ebb, by the tyranny of the several kings, Ergius, Witiza, Chindasuintha, and Favila, until the reign of Roderic; when he endeavoured to restore order, until the fatal event, which induced him to offer violence to Cava, the daughter of the Count Julian, one of the first men in the nation.

Cava, or Florinda as she is called by some writers, a lady of exquisite beauty and high sense of honor, was the cause of those stirring events, which subsequently destroyed the power of the Goths in Spain, and placed that country under the followers of Mahomet.

Count Julian, a man of high sense of honor, was then on a mission to the Barbary States, and when King Roderic had violated the honor of his daughter, she wrote to her father acquainting him of the violence offered to her.

After bewailing her hard fate in that letter, she concludes thus:—

“In a word, my dear father, your daughter; your blood; the branch of the royal stock, who like an innocent lamb was recommended to the care of a ravenous wolf, has been violated by King Roderic.

“If you forget not what you owe to your illustrious blood, you will revenge the affront offered to it, by destroying the tyrant who has so basely stained it. Remember that you are Count Julian, and I am Cava, your only daughter.”

This letter, written by a noble-minded woman, eleven hundred years ago, decided the fate of the Goths.

Count Julian, deeply incensed, resolved to sacrifice King Roderic and the whole country to his vengeance. Yet like a crafty politician, aware of his limited power, he called deep dissimulation to his aid, crossed to Spain and met the King, as if nothing had occurred to interrupt their friendship.

He was soon advanced to the highest honors, and then commenced a system of secretly engendering factions and strifes throughout all Spain; and when he had completely environed King Roderic in all kinds of difficulties, he and his daughter took their flight to Africa and arranged with Moussa Benazir to lead his troops into Spain.

Benazir, with a large force at Tangiers, determined to make an experiment before he ventured to employ his whole army in the Peninsula, and selected Tarick, or Tariff, a general of consummate abilities and determined character, to make the first essay. He crossed, with them what was called a small force, about 30,000 men, and suddenly falling on the rear of a powerful army commanded by Don Roderic, utterly destroyed it.

The alarm at the eruption of the Arabs spread all over Spain, and Roderic making fresh levies at Xerez, better known to us as Sherry, the place from whence the wine of that name is made, and exported. Tarick, after his first victory, was reinforced by the main army from Africa, and prepared for a final blow, and both armies met on the river Guadalette, whence after a most sanguinary conflict Roderic was routed, and his crown and shoes of gold being found in the river, gave rise to the belief that he was slain, but there was reason to believe that he had escaped into Portugal and died in obscurity. In that battle an act of apostacy and perfidy was committed which clearly decided the fate of the day. Oppa, a christian bishop, and bishops in that day fought with the army, went over to Tarick in the heat of the battle. In a short time Moussa and Tarick conquered all Spain, treating the christians with the utmost liberality and kindness, and made them by this tolerant course, their steady and firm friends—Tarick capturing Heracla, built by the Phœnicians, and changed the name to Gibel, Tarick now called Gibraltar.

Those two great Generals in modern times, could not long agree about “the division of the spoils,” or rather the division of the glory, and quarrelled. The Caliph recalled them both to Asia, where they died, leaving Spain with a Governor, who for some time was annoyed by the rebellion of Pelagus, a Gothic Prince, who with a handful of troops had determined to drive the Moors out of Spain.

Constant skirmishes and battles were carried on between the Arab governors of Spain and the Christian Princes and Generals, with no visible change in the state of affairs, when