

Crowds of adventurers flocked to the standard of a leader, whose ample inheritance of pretensions had made him familiar with war from his earliest boyhood; and he soon found himself at the head of eight thousand effective troops. Louis the Eleventh, although not directly aiding his enterprise with supplies of men or money, was willing so far to countenance it, as to open a passage for him through the mountain fastnesses of Roussillon, then in his keeping, and thus enable him to descend with his whole army at once on the northern borders of Catalonia.<sup>45</sup>

1467.

The king of Aragon could oppose no force capable of resisting this formidable army. His exchequer, always low, was completely exhausted by the extraordinary efforts, which he had made in the late campaigns; and, as the king of France, either disgusted with the long protraction of the war, or from secret good-will to the enterprise of his feudal subject, withheld from King John the stipulated subsidies, the latter monarch found himself unable, with every expedient of loan and exaction, to raise sufficient money to pay his troops, or to supply his magazines. In addition to this, he was now involved in a dispute with the count and countess of Foix, who, eager to anticipate the possession of Navarre, which had been guaranteed

Distress and  
embarrass-  
ments of  
John.

<sup>45</sup> Villeneuve Bargemont, Hist. de René, tom. ii. pp. 168, 169. — Histoire de Louys XI., autrement dicte La Chronique Scandaleuse, par un Greffier de l'Hostel de Ville de Paris, (Paris, 1620,) p. 145. —

Zurita, Anales, tom. iv. fol. 150, 153. — Alonso de Palencia, Corónica, MS., part. 2, cap. 17. — Palencia swells the numbers of the French in the service of the duke of Lorraine to 20,000.

PART  
I.

to them on their father's decease, threatened a similar rebellion, though on much less justifiable pretences, to that which he had just experienced from Don Carlos. To crown the whole of John's calamities, his eyesight, which had been impaired by exposure and protracted sufferings during the winter siege of Amposta, now failed him altogether.<sup>46</sup>

In this extremity, his intrepid wife, putting herself at the head of such forces as she could collect, passed by water to the eastern shores of Catalonia, besieging Rosas in person, and checking the operations of the enemy by the capture of several inferior places; while Prince Ferdinand, effecting a junction with her before Gerona, compelled the duke of Lorraine to abandon the siege of that important city. Ferdinand's ardor, however, had nearly proved fatal to him; as, in an accidental encounter with a more numerous party of the enemy, his jaded horse would infallibly have betrayed him into their hands, had it not been for the devotion of his officers, several of whom, throwing themselves between him and his pursuers, enabled him to escape by the sacrifice of their own liberty.

Popularity  
of the duke  
of Lorraine.

These ineffectual struggles could not turn the tide of fortune. The duke of Lorraine succeeded in this and the two following campaigns in making

<sup>46</sup> L. Marineo, *Cosas Memorables*, fol. 139.—Zurita, *Anales*, tom. iv. fol. 148, 149, 158.—Alonso, *Anales de Navarra*, tom. iv. pp. 611—613.—Duclos, *Hist. de Louis XI.*, (Amsterdam, 1746,) tom. ii. p. 114.—*Mém. de Comines*, Introd. p. 258, apud Petitot.

himself master of all the rich district of Ampurdan, northeast of Barcelona. In the capital itself, his truly princely qualities and his popular address secured him the most unbounded influence. Such was the enthusiasm for his person, that, when he rode abroad, the people thronged around him embracing his knees, the trappings of his steed, and even the animal himself, in their extravagance; while the ladies, it is said, pawned their rings, necklaces, and other ornaments of their attire, in order to defray the expenses of the war.<sup>47</sup>

King John, in the mean while, was draining the cup of bitterness to the dregs. In the winter of 1468, his queen, Joan Henriquez, fell a victim to a painful disorder, which had been secretly corroding her constitution for a number of years. In many respects, she was the most remarkable woman of her time. She took an active part in the politics of her husband, and may be even said to have given them a direction. She conducted several important diplomatic negotiations to a happy issue, and, what was more uncommon in her sex, displayed considerable capacity for military affairs. Her persecution of her step-son, Carlos, has left a deep stain on her memory. It was the cause of all her husband's subsequent misfortunes. Her invincible spirit, however, and the resources of her genius, supplied him with the best means of surmounting many of the difficulties in which she had involved

Death of the  
queen of  
Aragon.

<sup>47</sup> Villeneuve Bargemont, Hist. Anales, tom. iv. fol. 153 - 164. —  
de René, tom. ii. pp. 182, 183. Abarca, Reyes de Aragon, tom.  
L. Marineo, fol. 140. — Zurita, ii. rey 29, cap. 7.

PART  
I

him, and her loss at this crisis seemed to leave him at once without solace or support.<sup>48</sup>

At this period, he was further embarrassed, as will appear in the ensuing chapter, by negotiations for Ferdinand's marriage, which was to deprive him, in a great measure, of his son's coöperation in the struggle with his subjects, and which, as he lamented, while he had scarcely three hundred *enriques* in his coffers, called on him for additional disbursements.

Improvement in  
John's affairs.

As the darkest hour, however, is commonly said to precede the dawning, so light now seemed to break upon the affairs of John. A physician in Lerida of the Hebrew race, which monopolized at that time almost all the medical science in Spain, persuaded the king to submit to the then unusual operation of couching, and succeeded in restoring sight to one of his eyes. As the Jew, after the fashion of the Arabs, debased his real science with astrology, he refused to operate on the other eye, since the planets, he said, wore a malignant aspect. But John's rugged nature was insensible to the timorous superstitions of his age, and he compelled the physician to repeat his experiment, which in the end proved perfectly successful. Thus restored to his natural faculties, the octogenarian chief, for such

<sup>48</sup> Alonso de Palencia, *Corónica*, MS., part. 2, cap. 88. — L. Marinero, *Cosas Memorables*, fol. 143. Aleson, *Anales de Navarra*, tom. iv. p. 609. — The queen's death was said to have been caused by a cancer. According to Aleson and some other Spanish writers, Joan

was heard several times, in her last illness, to exclaim, in allusion, as was supposed, to her assassination of Carlos, "Alas! Ferdinand, how dear thou hast cost thy mother!" I find no notice of this improbable confession in any contemporary author.

he might now almost be called, regained his wonted elasticity, and prepared to resume offensive operations against the enemy with all his accustomed energy.<sup>49</sup>

Heaven, too, as if taking compassion on his accumulated misfortunes, now removed the principal obstacle to his success by the death of the duke of Lorraine, who was summoned from the theatre of his short-lived triumphs on the 16th of December, 1469. The Barcelonians were thrown into the greatest consternation by his death, imputed, as usual, though without apparent foundation, to poison; and their respect for his memory was attested by the honors no less than royal, which they paid to his remains. His body sumptuously attired, with his victorious sword by his side, was paraded in solemn procession through the illuminated streets of the city, and, after lying nine days in state, was deposited amid the lamentations of the people in the sepulchre of the sovereigns of Catalonia.<sup>50</sup>

1469.

As the father of the deceased prince was too old, and his children too young, to give effectual aid to

<sup>49</sup> Mariana, *Hist. de España*, tom. ii. pp. 459, 460. — L. Marineo, *Cosas Memorables*, fol. 141. — Alonso de Palencia, *Corónica*, MS., cap. 88.

<sup>50</sup> Villeneuve Bargemont, *Hist. de René*, tom. ii. pp. 182, 333, 334. — L. Marineo, *Cosas Memorables*, fol. 142. — Alonso de Palencia, *Corónica*, part. 2, cap. 39. — Zurita, *Anales*, tom. iv. fol. 178. — According to M. de Villeneuve Bargemont, the princess Isabella's hand had been offered to

the duke of Lorraine, and the envoy despatched to notify his acceptance of it, on arriving at the court of Castile, received from the lips of Henry IV. the first tidings of his master's death. (tom. ii. p. 184.) He must have learned too with no less surprise that Isabella had already been married at that time more than a year! See the date of the official marriage recorded in *Mem. de la Acad. de Hist.*, tom. vi. *Apend. no. 4.*

PART  
I.

their cause, the Catalans might be now said to be again without a leader. But their spirit was unbroken, and with the same resolution in which they refused submission more than two centuries after, in 1714, when the combined forces of France and Spain were at the gates of the capital, they rejected the conciliatory advances made them anew by John. That monarch, however, having succeeded by extraordinary efforts in assembling a competent force, was proceeding with his usual alacrity in the reduction of such places in the eastern quarter of Catalonia as had revolted to the enemy, while at the same time he instituted a rigorous blockade of Barcelona by sea and land. The fortifications were strong, and the king was unwilling to expose so fair a city to the devastating horrors of a storm. The inhabitants made one vigorous effort in a sally against the royal forces; but the civic militia were soon broken, and the loss of four thousand men, killed and prisoners, admonished them of their inability to cope with the veterans of Aragon.<sup>51</sup>

It surrenders.

At length, reduced to the last extremity, they consented to enter into negotiations, which were concluded by a treaty equally honorable to both parties. It was stipulated, that Barcelona should retain all its ancient privileges and rights of jurisdiction, and, with some exceptions, its large territorial possessions. A general amnesty was to be granted for offences. The foreign mercenaries

<sup>51</sup> Alonso de Palencia, *Corónica*, MS., part. 2, cap. 29, 45. — Zurita, *Anales*, tom. iv. fol. 180-183. — Abarca, *Reyes de Aragon*, rey 29, cap. 29.

were to be allowed to depart in safety ; and such of the natives, as should refuse to renew their allegiance to their ancient sovereign within a year, might have the liberty of removing with their effects wherever they would. One provision may be thought somewhat singular, after what had occurred ; it was agreed that the king should cause the Barcelonians to be publicly proclaimed, throughout all his dominions, good, faithful, and loyal subjects ; which was accordingly done !

The king, after the adjustment of the preliminaries, "declining," says a contemporary, "the triumphal car which had been prepared for him, made his entrance into the city by the gate of St. Antony, mounted on a white charger ; and, as he rode along the principal streets, the sight of so many pallid countenances and emaciated figures, bespeaking the extremity of famine, smote his heart with sorrow." He then proceeded to the hall of the great palace, and on the 22d of December, 1472, solemnly swore there to respect the constitution and laws of Catalonia.<sup>52</sup>

1472.

Thus ended this long, disastrous civil war, the fruit of parental injustice and oppression, which had nearly cost the king of Aragon the fairest portion of his dominions ; which devoted to disquietude and disappointment more than ten years of life, at a period when repose is most grateful ; and which opened the way to foreign wars, that

<sup>52</sup> L. Marineo, *Cosas Memorables*, fol. 144, 147. — Zurita, *Anales*, tom. iv. fol. 187, 188. — Alonso de Palencia, *Corónica*, MS., part. 2, cap. 1.

PART  
I.

continued to hang like a dark cloud over the evening of his days. It was attended, however, with one important result; that of establishing Ferdinand's succession over the whole of the domains of his ancestors.

P.C. Monumental de la Alhambra y Generali  
CONSEJERÍA DE CULTURA



JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA



## CHAPTER III.

REIGN OF HENRY IV., OF CASTILE. — CIVIL WAR. — MARRIAGE OF FERDINAND AND ISABELLA.

1454 — 1469.

Henry IV. disappoints Expectations. — Oppression of the People. — League of the Nobles. — Extraordinary Scene at Avila. — Early Education of Isabella. — Death of her Brother Alfonso. — Intestine Anarchy. — The Crown offered to Isabella. — She declines it. — Her Suitors. — She accepts Ferdinand of Aragon. — Marriage Articles. — Critical Situation of Isabella. — Ferdinand enters Castile. — Their Marriage.

WHILE these stormy events were occurring in Aragon, the Infanta Isabella, whose birth was mentioned at the close of the first chapter, was passing her youth amidst scenes scarcely less tumultuous. At the date of her birth, her prospect of succeeding to the throne of her ancestors was even more remote than Ferdinand's prospect of inheriting that of his; and it is interesting to observe through what trials, and by what a series of remarkable events, Providence was pleased to bring about this result, and through it the union, so long deferred, of the great Spanish monarchies.

The accession of her elder brother, Henry the Fourth, was welcomed with an enthusiasm, proportioned to the disgust which had been excited by the long-protracted and imbecile reign of his pre-

CHAPTER  
III.

Popularity  
of Henry  
IV.

PART  
I.

decessor. Some few, indeed, who looked back to the time when he was arrayed in arms against his father, distrusted the soundness either of his principles or of his judgment. But far the larger portion of the nation was disposed to refer this to inexperience, or the ebullition of youthful spirit, and indulged the cheering anticipations which are usually entertained of a new reign and a young monarch.<sup>1</sup> Henry was distinguished by a benign temper, and by a condescension, which might be called familiarity, in his intercourse with his inferiors, virtues peculiarly engaging in persons of his elevated station; and as vices, which wear the gloss of youth, are not only pardoned, but are oftentimes popular with the vulgar, the reckless extravagance in which he indulged himself was favorably contrasted with the severe parsimony of his father in his latter years, and gained him the surname of "the Liberal." His treasurer having remonstrated with him on the prodigality of his expenditure, he replied; "Kings, instead of hoarding treasure like private persons, are bound to dispense it for the happiness of their subjects. We must give to our enemies to make them friends, and to our friends to keep them so." He suited the action so well to the word, that, in a few years, there was scarcely a *maravedi* remaining in the royal coffers.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Nil pudet assuetos sceptris: mitissima sors est  
Regnorum sub rege novo."  
Lucan. Pharsalia, lib. 8.

<sup>2</sup> Oviedo, *Quincuagenas*, MS., bat. 1, quinc. 1, dial. 8. — Rodericus Sanctius, *Historia Hispanica*, cap.

38, 39. — Pulgar, *Claros Varones*, tit. 1. — Castillo, *Crónica*, i. 20. — Guzman, *Generaciones*, cap. 33. — Although Henry's lavish expenditure, particularly on works of architecture, gained him in early life the