

# **A YEAR IN SPAIN, VOL. II**

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A year in Spain, Vol. II by Alexander Slidell Mackenzie

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**ALEXANDER SLIDELL MACKENZIE**

**A YEAR IN  
SPAIN, VOL. II**



Mackenzie, Alexander Slidell

YEAR IN SPAIN.

BY

A YOUNG AMERICAN.

Bien se lo que son tentaciones del demonio, y que una de las mayores es ponerle a un hombre en el entendimiento que puede componer y imprimir un libro, con que gane tanta fama como dineros, y tantos dineros cuanta fama.

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**C O N T E N T S**  
**OF**  
**T H E   S E C O N D   V O L U M E .**

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## CHAPTER I.

### JOURNEY TO SEGOVIA.

Symptoms of Spring—Travelling Companion—Conveyance—The Galera—Manzanares—The Florida—Galera Scenes—The Beta—The Venta of Guadarrama—The Ventera—The Kitchen—Our Supper—Passage of the Mountains—Segovia—The Aqueduct—The Alcazar.

I HAD been promising myself during the whole winter to quit the city so soon as there were any symptoms of spring, and to make a visit to Segovia, returning by San Ildefonso and the Escorial. Towards the middle of March the trees of the Prado began to put forth shoots abundantly; one or two apricot-trees, sheltered by the palace of a grandee near the Recoletos, showed here and there a scattering blossom, sent as a spy to peep out and see if winter had taken his departure; and one who kept his ears open as I did might occasionally hear a solitary bird trying a note, as if to clear his throat for the overture in the garden of Retiro. Believing that I discovered the symptoms so anxiously wished for, I determined to start immediately.

Nor was I doomed on this occasion to travel without a companion. Fortune, in a happy moment, provided one in the person of a young countryman, who had come to Spain in search of instruction. He was just from college, full of all the ardent feeling excited by classical pursuits, with health unbroken, hope that was a stranger to disappointment, curiosity which had never yet been fed to satiety. Then he had sunny locks, a fresh complexion, and a clear