

SPANISH MYSTICS

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Spanish Mystics by Marguerite Tollemache

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MARGUERITE TOLLEMACHE

**SPANISH
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BY THE SAME WRITER

'If any man hear My voice, and open the door,
I will come in to him.'

Rev. iii. 20

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1886

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'Blessed are the ears which vibrate to the pulses of
the Divine Whisper'—THOMAS A KEMPIS

'These have sweet life in different degrees,
By feeling more or less the Eternal Breath'

DANTE, *Paradisi* (Canto IV.)

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THE following extracts have been selected from the works of Spanish Mystics of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, whose writings are perhaps less known to the English reader than the works of our own religious writers of the same period.

* Très-pauvre de substance, je ne me croyais propre
qu'aux travaux de compilation.

INTRODUCTION.

MYSTICISM has been termed 'the natural produce of the soil of Spain.'¹ It breathes not only in her theology, but in her literature and in her fine arts.

Sharp contrasts of climate, tastes, and habits are to be found in the different provinces of the Iberian Peninsula, but to the student of Spanish history one prevailing element pervades the whole and seems to unite the opposing forces.² It is this religious sentiment which is everywhere predominant, and which has ever formed an integral part of the national character.

In the early annals of Spain the nation was not exempt from the taint of Arianism ; but when, in the sixteenth century, under her Gothic king, Recared, she renounced its errors and accepted the orthodox faith preached by Leander and Isidore, every power was thenceforth devoted to the maintenance of that Catholic faith with which her greatness became indissolubly united. The wars which she waged were in defence of orthodoxy. To defend her

¹ See *History of Spanish Literature* (Ticknor).

² See *Les Mystiques espagnols* (Paul Rousselot).