

**THROUGH SPAIN: THE RECORD OF A
JOURNEY FROM ST. PETERSBURG TO
TANGIER, BY WAY OF
PARIS, MADRID, CORDOVA, SEVILLE
AND CADIZ; AND THENCE TO
GIBRALTER, RONDA AND GRANADA**

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Through Spain: The Record of a Journey from St. Petersburg to Tangier, by Way of Paris, Madrid, Cordova, Seville and Cadiz; and Thence to Gibraltar, Ronda and Granada by Duncan Dickinson

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DUNCAN DICKINSON

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THE
NEW
BRIDGE



RONDA. THE PUENTE NUEVE AND THE TAJO

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INTRODUCTION

Spanish Travelling—Kilometric Tickets—Hotels—Expenses—
Photography

I HAVE endeavoured to describe, in this book, a lonely journey through Spain—lonely, that is, in the ordinary sense of the word, for I had with me two faithful companions with whom I would go anywhere, and ask no better company—a camera and a Baedeker, the one an unfailing source of interest, and the other of information.

On my return I was asked so many naïve questions about the country—questions which seemed to indicate that Spain was almost a *terra incognita* to the majority of people—that I am tempted to write about what I saw there, in the hope that my experiences may be of interest both to those who like to do their travelling by their firesides, and to those who may be contemplating a visit to the Peninsula.

In the following pages I have described only what I saw, and not what I might, or should, have seen, with the result that much that would have been of undoubted interest has had to be omitted, and as a guide to Spain, or even to the

places visited, my record would be lamentably insufficient. The guide-book to which I pinned my faith has already been indicated, and I cannot do better than recommend other travellers to do as I did, and make an inseparable companion of Baedcker's familiar red volume.

It is unnecessary to say how to reach Spain. There is a sufficiency of routes to suit all tastes (and I think I may add purses), and their respective merits and demerits can be ascertained from the various tourist agencies. I myself went through Paris, partly because time was an important consideration, and partly because, coming from northern Europe, my route naturally lay that way. But if I were travelling from England, I think I should choose the sea route, either to Bordeaux or to some Spanish port—the latter, for choice, so as to escape the fussy French customs.

Travelling in Spain no longer presents the difficulties that it did formerly, as the days of the diligence and the pack mule are well-nigh over, and their places have been taken by the prosaic railway train and the *fin-de-siècle* automobile. But it must be admitted that the country is in a very backward condition where railways are concerned, as not only are the trains exceedingly slow, but the service is often bad and erratic, which makes travelling a tedious business, and one requiring a certain reserve of patience and