

**THE DAWN OF THE SECOND  
REFORMATION IN SPAIN: BEING  
THE STORY OF ITS RISE &  
PROGRESS FROM THE YEAR 1852**

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The Dawn of the Second Reformation in Spain: Being the Story of Its Rise & Progress from the Year 1852 by Mrs. Robert Peddie

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**MRS. ROBERT PEDDIE**

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## CONTENTS.



<p>THE DARK NIGHT. THE FIRST SEEDS.</p> <p>THE EARLY DAWN.</p> <p>THE DAWN ADVANCING.</p> <p>A SOCIETY FORMED. MODES OF EVANGELISTIC OPERATIONS. THE FIRST SPANISH TRACT. A SPANISH PERIODICAL. A SPANISH REFORMER. SPANISH PUBLICATIONS. A SPANISH HYMNAL.</p> <p>A MISSIONARY TOUR IN SPAIN. NEWS FROM ANDALUSIA. GLEANINGS.</p> <p>DON MANUEL PUNTO. NOTES FROM SENOR VASQUEZ. WORK IN ANDALUSIA. GIBRALTAR. GENERAL PROGRESS OF THE WORK.</p> <p>A SPANISH PROTESTANT CHURCH. A SPANISH LADY WORK BY SENOR VASQUEZ.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1852.</p> <p>PRAYER AND EXPECTATION. DISAPPOINTMENTS.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1853.</p> <p>THE FRIEND OF SPAIN.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1854.</p> <p>THE MISSIONARY TOURIST.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1855.</p> <p>DON LUIS USOZ. GLEANINGS. MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT. THE SPANISH CORTES. A CRY FROM SEVILLE.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1856.</p> <p>EPITOME OF EVANGELISTIC WORK. MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES, THE SPANISH PRESS.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1857.</p> <p>COLONEL SERRA. GLEANINGS. MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES. A SPANISH ROYAL EDICT. THE SPANISH KNU'S LAMENT.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1858.</p> <p>GLEANINGS. NOTE. MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.</p>
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	1859.	
EVANGELISTIC WORK,		MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.
FROM SEVILLE TO MADRID.		DON MANUEL LEON.
WORK AMONG SPANIARDS IN LONDON.		THE POPISH PRESS.
PROGRESS IN 1859.		
	1860.	
	THE STORY OF MATAMOROS.	
	1861.	
THE STORY OF MATAMOROS—CONTINUED.		THE PROTESTANT CHURCH IN MALAGA.
DON JOSE ALHAMA.		COMMUNICATION FROM MATAMOROS.
NEW VICTIMS.		THE PERSECUTED.
	1862.	
THE FINAL JUDGMENT ON THE PRISONERS.		WORK AT THE INTERNATIONAL
THE CLOSE.		EXHIBITION.
WORK IN LIVERPOOL.		NOTICES.
QUEEN ISABELLA'S PHYSICIAN.		
	1863—1871.	
	CHAPTER ON PRESENT WORK.	

## APPENDIX.

ACCOUNT OF THE FIRST PUBLIC MEETING AT THE FORMATION OF THE SPANISH  
EVANGELIZATION SOCIETY.

## P R E F A C E.



SINCE the late Revolution in Spain, in September 1868, by which a wide and an effectual door was opened for the full and unhidden entrance, or rather precipitate rush, of the glorious gospel of the grace of God, not only upon the shores, but into the very bosom of that country, we have seen many notices as to the influences which were either known or supposed to have been at work, during the years preceding that great political event. But all the notices that have yet seen the light, do not tell a tithe of the true story of that work, which has been wrought out by the wonder-working hand of God.

And the inquiry has arisen,—Ought matters to continue thus; or is it not right to endeavour to raise somewhat the edge of the veil hanging over that history, which God in his Providence had created during the later fetter-bound years of that dark and down-trodden, but now happily emancipated land?

Many reasons have, for a considerable time past, led to the consideration of this matter being dropped. But more recently, it has appeared in a stronger light than ever it did before, that an attempt should be made to present a narrative of the rise and progress of gospel truth in Spain during the seventeen years'

work of the Edinburgh Spanish Evangelization Society, immediately preceding the Revolution of September 1868.

And, in much lowliness of heart, and in simple dependence upon God for help, counsel, and guidance, the attempt has been made, and the result is now presented to the reader in the following pages.

In these pages, it will be fully seen that it is the work of God that we design to set forth, and not the work of man, and that, so as practically to proclaim the Divine utterance,—“Behold what God hath wrought!”

From the mass of matter accumulated on our hands, we found it a very difficult task to make selections, so as to give a fair, yet comprehensive view of the character and extent of the work of the Spanish Mission, in so brief a compass as we desired. In fact, only a small part of what has been effected during these years of work can be noticed in these pages. Were a regular history to be attempted, the material in hand would furnish matter for several large volumes, and be still unexhausted. As we design this work to be comprised within very narrow limits, we have been under the necessity of giving no account of the Society's work in Portugal, Spanish America, and in the other Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries, to all of which, more or less, the Society's work has been extended.

This history is intended to be issued in two volumes, the second under certain conditions, which are the following:—

The entire work being undertaken at the author's own expense, the issue of the second volume must depend upon the expenses of this first volume being covered by the sales.



As soon, therefore, as the author is secured from loss in the issue of the volume, now just published, with a reasonable prospect of securing the expense of the second, the latter will be sent to press, and the publication will be duly advertised in the quarterly periodical—“*Times of Refreshing in Spain.*”

Under these circumstances, this first volume is commended to the interests of the supporters and friends of the Spanish Mission, and to all others who desire to see a written narrative of the Dawn of the Second Reformation in Spain.

This first volume is complete in itself, and embraces the period between the years 1852 and 1863.



DAWN OF THE  
SECOND REFORMATION IN SPAIN.

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CHAPTER I.

THE DARK NIGHT.

1852.

SOME twenty years ago, the spiritual condition of Continental countries, bound under the iron yoke of Rome, was beginning to press heavily upon the hearts of many Christian persons in Edinburgh. Much prayer was offered that God would arise on behalf of these lands, and that the time to favour them might then be come. Prayer deepened interest, and increasing interest intensified prayer.

Italy was, at that period, with many, the special point to which the eye of faith was turned, and for which much believing prayer was poured forth to God. Many causes conduced to give that prominence to Italy. The Waldensian Church, though greatly dimmed in spiritual lustre, was still a centre of light within her borders, and of herself constituted a source of hope and expectation to those in this country, who longed and prayed for her regeneration. The gospel cause in the Italian Peninsula was not, therefore, considered a

hopeless undertaking; but, on the contrary, there existed good ground for entertaining the happiest anticipations, that the time of Italy's merciful visitation was close at hand. And so it was, and we all know the story of her advancing evangelization. Thus was Italy cared for by man, and helped by God.

But, at the period referred to in our opening lines, no eye seemed turned to desolate, unhappy Spain; or rather, perhaps, no hand was seen stretched forth to help, and to seek to save her. But this seemed not the fault of the Christian public of this country. Spain was, as Jericho of old, "straitly shut up," and any effort to send forth the gospel to her spiritually famishing people, seemed as utterly hopeless as would any attempt have been, to introduce it within the precincts of the Vatican. In short, the idea of evangelizing Spain seemed a thing wholly impossible, and not for a moment to be entertained. Every avenue, every door of entrance for the admission of divine truth was closed, and all seemed to be hermetically sealed. All the previous labourers in the field, viz. :—Dr Thomson, Dr Rule,\* and Lieutenant Graydon,\* had one after another been expelled from the country, by the express orders of Queen Christina; and, in 1840, not a single missionary labourer was known to have remained behind.

During, therefore, the following twelve years, darkness and the shadow of death enveloped the whole land, and scarcely a ray of light was perceptible, to gladden the heart with the promise of a coming day. Up to the period at which the work described in these sketches commenced, Spain, helpless and hopeless, sat desolate, an outcast from God, and forgotten of man.†

\* We regret that notices of the successful labours of these gentlemen do not come within the scope of this work.

† The concurrent testimonies of all Bible and Tract Societies about this period, and for many years afterwards, were ever to the effect "Spain continues to be closed."