

## THE AUTHOR'S ADIOS.

EVEN in a Spanish mining town life has its quiet resting-places, and the quaint, walled gardens, with their creaking ever-turning norias, still hang undisturbed and unbuilt upon on the outskirts. I know of no more quiet, more beautiful scene, and of no greater repose to the busy, active, over-wrought mind, than to leave the confinement of the sala, the dirty streets, the oaths and cries, and wander out into one of these gardens at early morn or dewy eve. There, at least, everything is suggestive of repose and peace—everything is fresh from the Creator's hand.

The Andalucian early morn is exceedingly beautiful. At seven o'clock the sun is warm, but not unbearably hot; the air has a keen, cold, crispness about it, which exhilarates one's frame, and braces it for the heat and burden of the day. Wander, at that hour, into the huerta, or market-garden; look up, as you walk around its narrow paths, into the sky, which is bluest of the blue—of a clear, rich, deep transparent blue, unknown in the hazy heat of midday. The washerwomen at the tanks are just—in their gaudy yellow petticoats and gay head-gear—finishing their early work; the fig-tree, hanging over them, lends its deep dark shade and damp aromatic scent. Seated beneath it, you hear the early chirp of the sparrow or bee-eater just

being concluded before the heat of day. The old mule slowly is turning the dripping-wheel of the Moorish noria, or well; the distant sounds of labour and unrest hardly reach hither; the irrigation is well-nigh finished, and the tomato and pimiento plants are holding up their heads amid the rich steam that goes up from the grateful earth. Here, too, if it be in the month of May or June, may be seen the straggling avenues of pomegranate-trees, showing all their wealth of scarlet blossom, which contrasts grandly with the rich dark green of the foliage. The dahlia and the hollyhock are in profuse abundance; but, if it be June, the harvest on the surrounding slopes has long since been gathered into the floors. The rose, the geranium, the cineraria, have fallen to the earth long since; for the Andalucian summer has gone, and autumn is upon us, with its brown stubbles and scorching skies.

A walk at early morning brings into a man's heart many good and pure thoughts. His heart is then at its freshest and purest, and he goes back in fancy to the playmates of youth, now scattered far and wide—in the barrack beneath the scorching suns of India, in the sweet grey parsonages of the old land, in the snows of Canada, in the dewy churchyard. He wanders once more, in fancy, through the green meadows of his happier days; looks once more into the bright eyes of the girl he romped with, and meant to have won; hears the click of the cricket-bat in the playing-fields of Radley, or Harrow, or classic Eton, and once more, with heaving chest and bare arms upon the banks of Isis,—contrast how strange to his present dirty, teeming town, with its talk of lead, and its idolatry of dineros, its dust, its noises, its unhallowed associations!

## THE AUTHOR'S ADIOS.

" Ah, happy hills ! ah, pleasing shade !  
 Ah, fields beloved in vain !  
 Where once my careless childhood strayed,  
 A stranger then to pain.  
 I feel the gales that from you blow  
 A momentary bliss bestow,  
 As waving fresh their gladsome wing,  
 My weary soul they seem to soothe,  
 And, redolent of joy and youth,  
 To breathe a second spring."

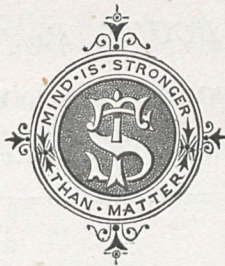
Night, too, the Andalusian night, has its own peculiar beauty. The clear, blue, star-spangled sky ; the sweet, aromatic smell of the herbs ; the dead silence around you, save the chirrup of myriads of cicadas, which absolutely fills the air, as with a chorus of ten thousand silvery bells ; the wild ditty of the gardener, as he strums his guitar to words of idle love. And all these, when evening has spread her pall over hill and dale, awaken a different train of thought, but one equally pleasing and refreshing, after the busy, weary day is spent. Were it not for night and morning in the gardens, life would have no place for contemplation ; a man would know no quiet resting-place in this Spanish mining town. Reader, *Vaya usted con Dios y con la Virgen, y con todos los santos* (God and the Virgin, and all the saints, go with thee on thy journey), is the writer's parting wish for you. Will you not wish him the same ?

THE END.

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