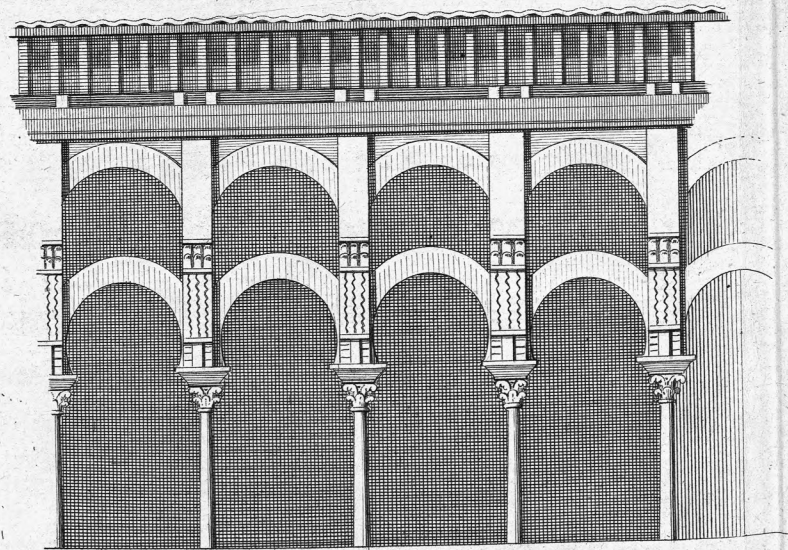


On the
of the
or Sanctum



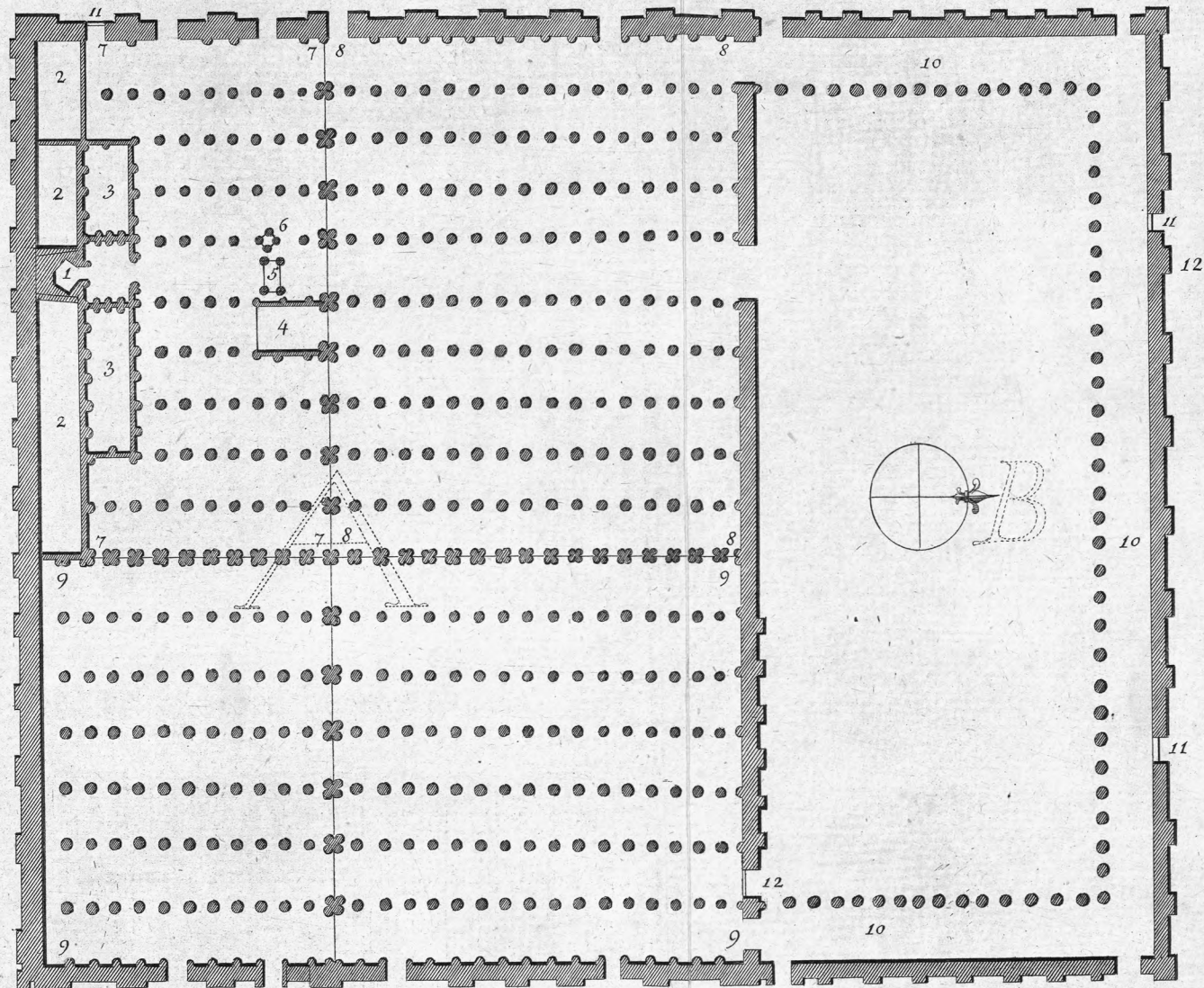
Wall
Zancarron
Sanctorum

Section of the great Ile



5 10 20 30 40 50
Spanish feet

Plan of the MOSQUE of CORDOVA in Moorish Times



50 100 150 200 250 300 350 400 450 500 550 600 650
Spanish Feet

References

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------|
| A | The Mosque | B | The Court of Ablutions |
| 1 | Zancarron | 7 | Part where the Nobles State |
| 2 | Priest's Rooms | 8 | Part for the People |
| 3 | Part where none but Priests entered | 9 | Addition to the first Mosque |
| 4 | Seat of the Moufti | 10 | Porch where they left their Shoes |
| 5 | Throne of the Caliph | 11 | Doors now walled up |
| 6 | Seat of the Cadi | 12 | New Doors opened by the Christians |



the work two years before he died: his son Hiffem or Ifcan finished the whole mosque about the year 800. It was more than once altered and enlarged by the Mahometans themselves, and has since undergone several changes since it became a Christian church. The greatest alteration was made in the fifteenth century, by building a cupola in the center upon Gothic arches, and scooping away part of the ancient edifice to form a large choir.

In the days of the Mussulmen, the mosque was a square building, with a flat roof upon arches, which did not rise more than thirty-five feet above the pavement. It was four hundred and twenty in breadth, and five hundred and ten in length, including the thickness of the walls. The roof was borne up by near a thousand columns according to some accounts, and by seven hundred and seventy-eight according to others, which formed nineteen iles from east to west, and twenty-nine from north to south, if we may trust to the description given by Morales, and many other historians; but I own I cannot see how there could ever have been more than seventeen, and the plans of the academy mark no more²⁶. The columns were of the richest

²⁶ From my own observations, and an examination of the plans taken by the academicians, sent by the king to measure and draw this and other

richest marbles; the twenty-four gates were plated with bronze, embossed in a most curious manner. The principal entrance had its folding doors covered with plates of gold. Upon the highest cupola were three golden balls, bearing up a pomegranate and a flower de luce of the same precious metal. Four thousand seven hundred lamps burned in the mosque every night, and consumed in a year near twenty thousand pounds of oil; it also required annually sixty pounds of wood of aloes, and sixty of ambergrease, for the perfumes.

Such is the description of this famous temple left us in the writings of the Arabian and old Spanish authors.

I now proceed to give you a minute account of its present state, after the notes I took down upon the spot with the utmost attention.

The streets round the mosque are narrow, and ill calculated for affording a general view. But indeed there is nothing very shewy on the outside. The walls are plain enough, and not very high: the roof is hid behind battlements cut into steps. On the east

ancient buildings in the south of Spain, I find the measurements given by most historians, who describe the dimensions of this church, to be extremely difficult to reconcile, and I believe erroneous, at least not much to be depended upon; for which reason I have adhered to the plans above mentioned.

side,

side, the whole length is divided by buttresses into thirteen divisions, and about the same number on each of the other three sides. The doors opened in many of these compartments are ornamented with stucco of different colours. On the north side is a lofty belfry, a modern building, that has made a total alteration in the appearance of that front. Seventeen gates admit you into the church and cloyster. The cloyster, or court, which served the Mahometans for their ablutions, and as a place to leave their slippers in, before they entered the holy house, is an oblong square of five hundred and ten feet, (the length of the church) by two hundred and forty. A portico of sixty-two pillars environs it on three sides, about twenty-five feet wide. The middle is taken up with three handsome and copious fountains, groves of orange-trees, and some towering cypresses and palms, which form a most delightful retreat in the sultry hours. We have had occasion to experience the comforts of this shade at noon-day, when the natives being all retired to their *siesta*, we were left in full possession of this ancient fabric. Contrary to the custom of the rest of Spain, the doors are left open all day, and nobody finds fault with those that saunter about in the church out of idleness or curiosity.

Near the great gate, that leads from the cloyster into

300 TRAVELS THROUGH SPAIN.

the mosque, are three pieces of columns, each with an inscription, which vary from each other only in the name of the emperor, the rest of the words being alike in all three.

T. I. C. A. E. S. A. R. D. I. V. I. A. V. G. V. S. T. I. F.

D. I. V. I. I. V. L. I. N. E. P. O. S. A. V. G. V. S. T. V. S.

P. O. N. T. V. F. E. X. M. A. X. X. X. I. C. O. S.

V. I. M. P. T. R. I. B. P. O. T. E. S. T. X. X. X. V. I. I.

A. B. I. A. N. O. A. V. G. V. S. T. O. Q. V. I. E. S. T.

A. D. B. O. E. T. I. M. V. S. Q. V. E. A. D.

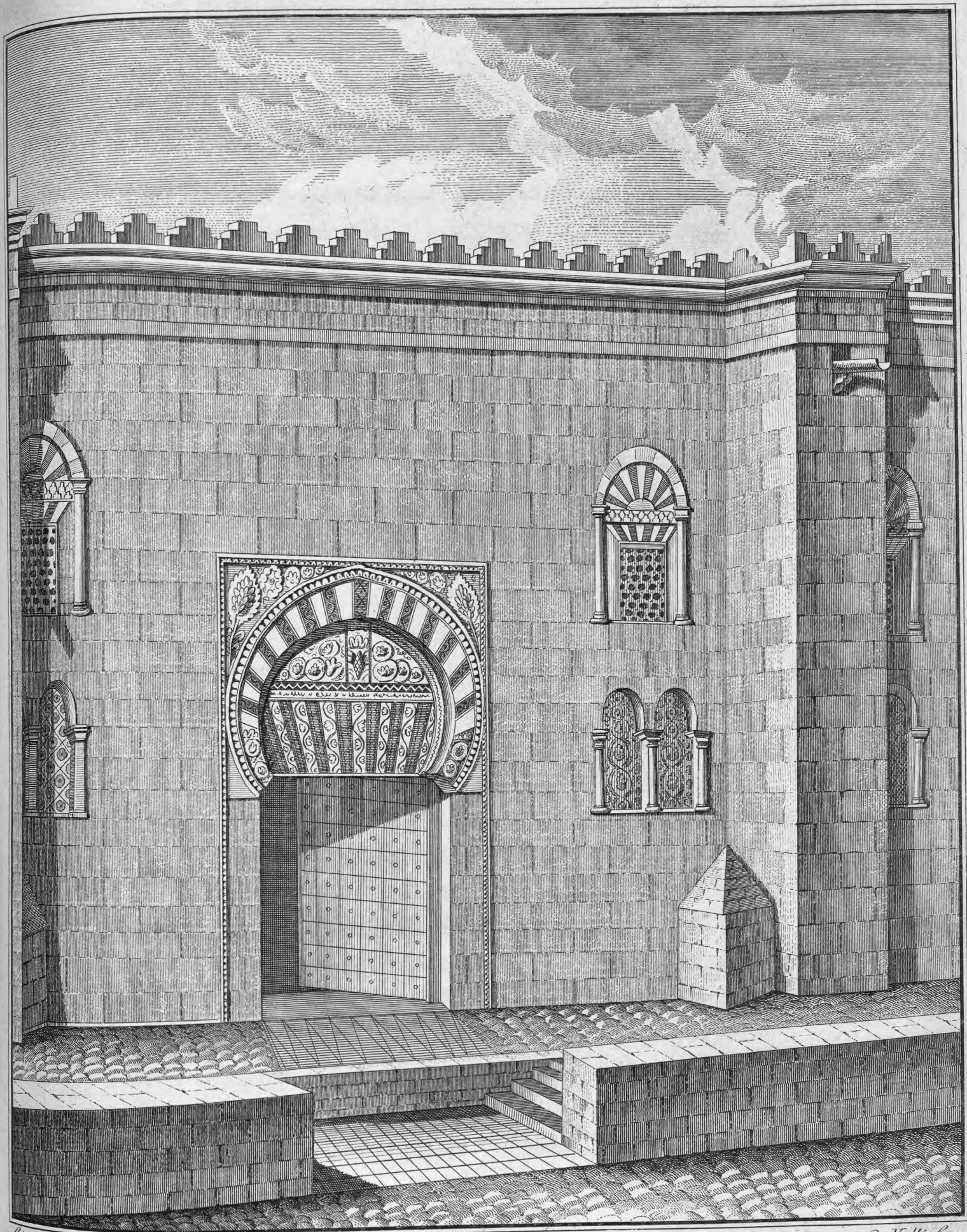
O. C. E. A. N. V. M.

L. X. I. I. I. I.

The others bear the names of Augustus and Caius. What these kind of milestones, and the Janus Augustus were, I confess I am not able to inform you, nor can I procure any information from Maffei's collection of inscriptions, as, instead of explaining these lines, he doubts of there being any such existing.

The grand entrance of the church is at the thirteenth ile from the east wall, which is rather wider and loftier than the rest, and the parts more decorated.

Nothing can be more striking than the first step into this singular, rather than beautiful edifice. To acquire some idea of it, you must represent to yourself a vast gloomy labyrinth, like what the French are so fond of
in



H. Swi. 1776

C. Nolli sc.

Part of the East Front



in their gardens, a fine *quincunx*. It is divided into seventeen iles, or *naves*, (each about twenty feet wide) by rows of columns of various marbles, viz. blue with white veins, yellow, red, red veined with white, grey, and Granadine and African green. These pillars are not all of the same height; for the Arabs having taken them from Roman buildings, served them in the same manner as the tyrant Procrustes did his guests: to the short ones they clapped on monstrous capitals, and thick bases; those that were too long for their purpose had their base chopped off, and a diminutive shallow bonnet placed on their head. However, the thickness of the shaft is pretty equal throughout, about eighteen inches diameter, and the capitals are generally barbarous imitations of those of the Corinthian order. A couple of arches, one above the other, rising from the columns, run along the rows; and from the same basis springs an arch that forms the roof of each ile.

By several alterations and additions, the Moors had divided the whole mosque into four parts, marked out by two lines of clustered pillars, crossing each other at right angles: three of these portions were allotted to the populace and the women; the fourth, in the south-east angle, was reserved for the nobility and clergy. In this last quarter was the zancarron, or holy chapel, where they deposited the books of the law. The door
of