

ANCIENT SHIELD IN THE "ARMERIA REAL," AT MADRID.

THE royal magazine of arms at Madrid was built from the designs of Gaspard de Vega, architect to Philip II. It is situated opposite one of the façades of the royal palace—a modern building erected upon the site of the ancient Alcazar. A selection of fine arms, brought from the fortress of Simanca according to some authors, from Valladolid according to others, served as a foundation for the *Armeria Real*, or Royal

The motto upon this shield, "*Seræ Spes Una Senectæ*," is an allusion to the merit attached by soldiers to shields and bucklers as a means of insuring and prolonging life. The shield itself is broad and ample. The animals, which occupy the centre of the shield, are symbolical of the victories won by Spain, or by the emperor, over Africa: the imperial and crowned swan is devouring the dragon or winged serpent.



ROYAL SHIELD IN THE ROYAL ARMOURY AT MADRID.

Armoury, which contains the finest, if not the most numerous, collection of the kind in Europe. The arms are ranged on either side of a long gallery, at the end of which is an armed statue of St. Ferdinand; in the centre are complete suits of armour, arranged in the same manner as those in the Tower of London. Some very valuable pieces were carried away during the civil disturbances; among these was the splendid shield represented in our engraving.

The historical scenes, in the upper and lower compartments of the shield, seem to be representations of the taking of Granada and of Tunis.

From the character and beauty of the workmanship of this shield, there is little doubt that it was a production of the sixteenth century, though the artist is unknown. It is supposed to have belonged to Charles V., who was a passionate admirer of rare and beautiful arms and armour.