

FOLK-BALLADS OF SOUTHERN EUROPE

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Folk-Ballads of Southern Europe by Sophie Jewett

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SOPHIE JEWETT

**FOLK-BALLADS OF
SOUTHERN EUROPE**

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Folk-Ballads of Southern Europe



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INTRODUCTION

SINCE the days of Southey's sojourn in the Peninsula certain Spanish ballads have been familiar in English verse; and Lockhart's *Spanish Ballads* are almost as indispensable a part of one's early memories as are the lays of Robin Hood.

But Lockhart's ballads, like the originals from which they are translated, are only half "popular." In the Castilian, as in the English, there are bookish phrases and many a trace of courtly or school poetry. The French and Italian popular ballads have gained perhaps more than they have suffered by the fact that they have been collected since the time when improving and completing were admissible parts of an editor's task. Baldness, fragmentariness, inconsequence are marks of genuine transmission; while the variety without inventiveness displayed by a ballad that is found in a dozen different dialects is curiously interesting. Sometimes it suggests a typical provincial trait; some-