

A Note Upon Spanish Music

THE Spaniards of the Roman world, as we learn from Juvenal, from Statius, from Pliny, from Martial, and from Arrian, were distinguished among all other provincials by their skill in the art of music. Yet this relative excellence is all that we may certainly know upon the subject; for owing to the absence of any system of writing down or noting the musical sounds they may have produced, we are necessarily ignorant of the character of the melodies, or the development of vocal or instrumental harmony among the early virtuosi of the peninsula.—Burke, in his *History of Spain*