

the choristers rose and fell along the aisle, and seemed to linger in the roof among the sculptured palm-leaves. The high altar, with its lighted candles and vases of flowers, and the rich robes of the officiating priests, formed a warm patch of color strongly in contrast with the cold simplicity of the gray marble. A small flock of worshipers, whose strongly marked olive faces

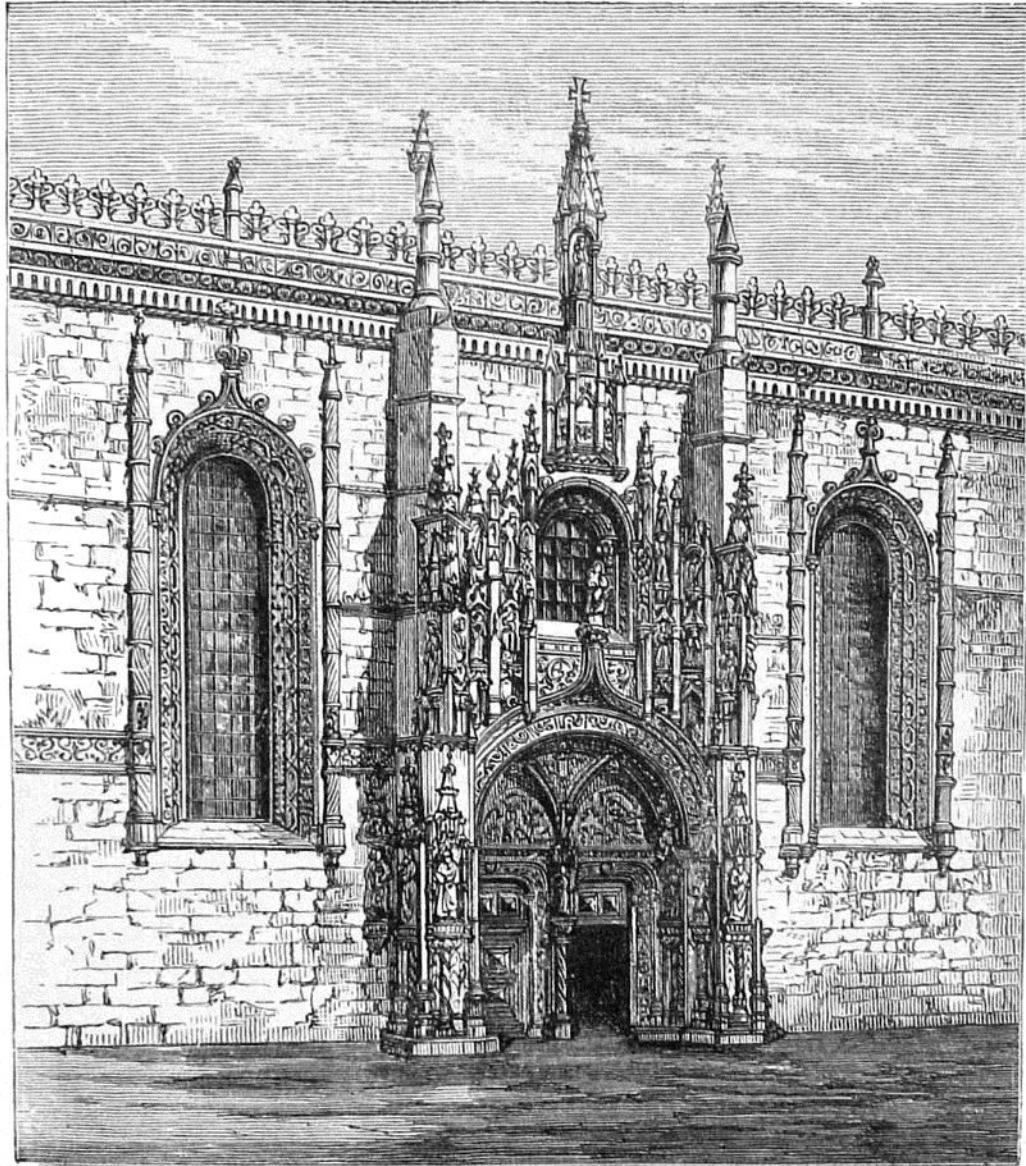


FIG. 20.—The Porch of Santa Maria, Belem.

and picturesque attire had to us all the interest of novelty, made up for their small number by the apparent earnestness of their devotion. The whole scene struck us as being wonderfully harmonious and pleasant.

The monastery of Santa Maria of Belem, commonly called