

CHAPTER II

RAYMUND LULL'S BIRTHPLACE AND EARLY LIFE

(A.D. 1235-1265)

“ I think that I better understand the proud, hardy, frugal Spaniard and his manly defiance of hardships since I have seen the country he inhabits. . . . The country, the habits, the very looks of the people, have something of the Arabian character.”—*Washington Irving's "The Alhambra."*

RAYMUND LULL was born of an illustrious family at Palma in the island of Majorca of the Balearic group in 1235.* His father had been born at Barcelona and belonged to a distinguished Catalonian family. When the island of Majorca was taken from the Saracens by James I., king of

* Some authorities give the date 1234, and one 1236, but most agree on the year 1235. See Baring-Gould: "Lives of the Saints," vol. vi., p. 489.