

## The Spanish Monarchy. In Prospect—Its Bearing Upon The Cuba Question.

The Cortes of Spain will take up shortly the question of a monarchy for the country and who is to be chosen King. There has been a great deal of speculation, and, to use a California mining term, a great deal of prospecting round for a suitable man to wear the Spanish crown. There has been, too, no little difficulty among the different political factions in settling upon the form of government and the candidature of the aspirants to the throne. The Duke of Montpensier, the King of Portugal, the Prince of Asturias, a member of the Italian dynasty, and others have been named; and now, as the time approaches for a decision the name of Prince Napoleon has been suddenly mentioned. Altogether it is a very complicated matter, and from present appearances, will not be easily settled.

Considering the difficulties of the question, and bringing Prince Napoleon forward as a candidate at the eleventh hour, it seems not improbable that the Emperor Louis Napoleon and the rest of the Bonaparte family may be at work to secure the prize of Spanish royalty. General Prim's prolonged visit to Paris may be connected with such a movement. We know that the Emperor Napoleon works in such a silent and apparently undemonstrative manner whenever he has a great object to accomplish. We are aware also, that under cover of seeming indifference and nonintervention, he is deeply interested in the result of the revolution in Spain. And in view of the relations of Spain with France, their contiguity, and the vast power of Napoleon in the affairs of the nations of Southern Europe, it is not likely that the Spanish Regency would take such an important step as the choice of a monarch without consulting the wishes of the Emperor. Of course he would rather see his cousin King of Spain than any other man. He has the same ambition as his uncle, Napoleon the First, and copies him as closely as possible under the circumstances of the times in his policy. Then, a Bonaparte on the throne of Spain, would tend to strengthen his own dynasty in France, and considering he is at times in precarious health, and may not live long, it is of the utmost importance to fortify the position of his successor, the Prince Imperial, by all the means in his power. The Empress Eugénie, too, who is a Spaniard, and very popular, would use her influence, no doubt, to have Prince Napoleon chosen King of Spain. Besides, Prince Napoleon is known to be an able man, and as having those liberal or democratic tendencies which would suit the Spanish people. He has studied Spain thoroughly and is one of the best Spanish scholars in Europe. Then, he is the son-in-law of the King of Italy, which would bring to his support the influence of the Italian kingdom. By Prince Napoleon's election to the throne of Spain the Emperor Napoleon's views of consolidating or uniting the Latin race and extending its power would be promoted, and to bring that about, we know, is a cherished object of his Imperial Majesty. Looking at this matter, then, in all its features, we think it is not improbable that Prince Napoleon may be the future King of Spain.

As far as we are concerned it may make little difference who is to be King of Spain, if a monarchy be inevitable, except as regards the question of Cuba. On that, however, it may be of some importance. Prince Napoleon, it is believed, has broad and liberal views, and is friendly to the United States. He might, therefore, see the difficulty of holding Cuba as a Spanish colony, and gracefully yield to the demand for Cuban independence or annexation to this country. He might be governed by as liberal ideas as his uncle Napoleon was when he sold Louisiana to the United States. But, we think, that whatever his ideas might be he would not consent at the very commencement of his reign to the dismemberment of the Empire of Spain. It would be too hazardous, and subject him at the beginning to violent attacks. Nor do we imagine his cousin, the Emperor of the French, under whose influence he would necessarily be, has any such good feeling towards this country or republican government as to consent to the independence or annexation of Cuba. Indeed, it is doubtful whether any other man, if elected King of Spain, would venture to part with Cuba unless compelled by the inexorable fiat of war. Whatever efforts this country may make in behalf of the Cubans or for the acquisition of the island should be made, therefore, during the government of the Regency. Serious complications might arise after the monarchy is established. Now is the time to act. The Regency, which is about to expire, can afford to dispose of the Cuban question on broad and liberal principles and according to the wishes of the United States without fear of any political consequences to its members. We tell our government, consequently, that now is the time to settle the question of Cuba, either by negotiation with Spain or by recognizing the independence of the Cubans, for if it should not act thus, dangerous complications may arise under the future Spanish monarchy, and this great republic may be humiliated in the eyes of the world or plunged into war.