

## AFFAIRS IN SPAIN.

### Hostilities in the Cortes—The General Situation—Sentiment of the Clergy—Cuban Matters.

From Our Own Correspondent.

MADRID, Wednesday, March 9, 1870.

Open hostilities have broken out in the Cortes, between two of the most powerful parties in the Chamber, each of them anxious to secure to itself the vital strength of the country, and to make it an instrument for the realization of its plans. The hostile factions are the Democrats, supported by the most moderate of the Republicans, and the Unionists. The struggle is assuming the most serious proportions. The aim of the Republicans is to prevent the gains of the revolution of September from falling into the hands of the Reactionists; that of the Unionists is to become masters of them, by electing the monarch of their choice. The Government, distracted by the struggles of these two factions, furnishes unconsciously by its inaction hopes and aspirations to all parties. I have often noticed that, in Spain, in the solution of the most important difficulties, it is never a question of consulting the public welfare, but only of personal likings and animosities. Thus the Democrats are exerting all their efforts to induce the Government to abandon the favorable attitude it has assumed toward the Unionists in order to obtain a reversion in their favor. The Ministry is anxious to be on a friendly footing with both Democrats and Unionists, and, in the fear of making enemies, whenever any of its members lay a bill before the Cortes, they are obliged to make concessions to each party; hence the eternal agitation prevalent among them, and to which they are constrained to submit. RIVERO, PRIM and BECERRA are desirous to solve these questions in accordance with the principles of the revolution, but, in the moment of action, they find themselves in presence of sentiments and aspirations so hostile that it is impossible to come to an understanding, hence the critical position of the Ministry.

There is in Madrid one unanimous opinion with regard to the present Government. The greater part of the Deputies and the Ministers are convinced that it would be most dangerous to leave matters in their present condition, which is one of neither life nor death, but a sort of moribund agony, which is ruining and exhausting the whole nation. I told you in a recent letter that there was a question of putting into execution the organic laws, which are the necessary complement to the Constitution. But on this ground it was utterly impossible to come to an understanding. The majority of the Cortes was divided, and it is not known as yet what solution will be given to this important matter. The Union Liberals are in favor of conceding the authorization in question; for, they argue that after the organic laws have been passed there will be no longer any plausible reason for hesitating to elect a King, and thus crushing the hopes of their enemies, who threaten the nation with a civil war.

The Democrats and the Republicans, fully comprehending the importance of discussing at length and with reflection the Organic laws on meetings, associations, the Press, the municipalities, the conseils genereaux, public order, elections, civil marriage, the establishment of civil registers, and the reform of the civil and penal codes, will not concede without a struggle the authorization demanded by the Ministry. They base their opposition to this measure on the danger with which the execution of these laws would be fraught, if effected by the Ministry, without having been voted by the Cortes; for, in that case, future Ministers would not hold themselves bound to respect them, looking upon them as the work of a party, and not as the expression of the national will. The clergy, high and low, is at daggers drawn with the Ministry, and the sixty thousand priests, legued with the sacristans, beadles and other ecclesiastical officers belonging to all the forty thousand communes of Spain, are plotting in concert with the nobles against the revolution.

#### CUBAN MATTERS.

A piece from Havana dated 25th of February, state that a dissension has arisen between Gen. VALMASEDA and CABALLERO DE RODAS, Governor-General of Cuba. Notwithstanding the reports of the Government organs, I learn from private letters that the suppression of the Cuban insurrection is by no means effected as yet. The spirit of the insurgents is, however, considerably depressed, and their numbers are much diminished.