

Spain is that Barcelona is quiet, but the neighborhood is in a ferment. Four hundred republican insurgents are at Sagasta. Sagasta is in a dangerous state, and many prominent republican leaders have left Madrid for that province. Things at Saragossa, Malaga, Oudiz and Jerez are doubtful. The railway and the telegraph wires are cut at six different places between Madrid and Barcelona. The presidents of the republican clubs have been debating to-day upon the late prohibitory decree of Sagasta. Ministers Sagasta, Pi y Suñer and all have agreed that the decree is eminently unconstitutional, and have censured the measure strongly. To-morrow at Madrid is pregnant with danger. The candidature of the Duke of Genoa is triumphing. The Duke is standing Spanish at Lake Como. General Sickness has not yet withdrawn his note."

These two last telegrams require amplification from me, which I will proceed to give, though they contain the exact summary of what interests the world, and whatever I shall say, be it remembered, I speak of certainties; so first I shall commence with General Sickness' note.

The substance of General Sickness' note to the government of Spain has been sent to you in a more reliable way than to any other party outside of the Spanish and American governments. If it contained any more than what I sent to you I am ignorant of the fact, though every one who could give the least information about the note has been badgered more than enough. But I can say with confidence that the very comforting statements sent to the London press by the English correspondents are perfectly unreliable and unworthy, and the frequent views of the Spanish press upon that remarkable note are equally unworthy. We at Madrid receive telegrams from New York almost daily saying that the government and the American press have censured the conduct of General Sickness, and that it is stated in America that the General has exceeded his instructions. This is childish and absurd in the extreme, for the General, were he a Cuban, could not have exceeded the spirit of his instructions. Exceeding his instructions could not have carried out his own ideas and thoughts upon the subject more liberally and faithfully than Minister Sickness has done, and that he has used too strong language to the Spanish government may be discredited from the fact that the clauses of the note have been replied to by this government with all courtesy, with many thanks for the friendly interest the United States have taken in Spanish affairs.

My opinion is, also, that Spain has declined in the same kind tone the friendly intervention of the United States, for it is but natural to assume that if the Spanish government replied to some clauses they would reply to all, and this opinion is strengthened by the fact that the government, seemingly having got rid of this difficulty, immediately turned their attention with increased energy to the despatch of reinforcements to Cuba. This opinion is my own, unauthorized, certainly, but one cannot withhold credence from things he may see and words he may hear here and there. Again, I know it for a fact that Sickness' intention is to withdraw the note if the intervention clause is not replied to shortly; but this latter may be but an expression to ward off suspicion from an actually already taken place within the circle of diplomacy. If newspaper men are in the dark concerning the results of the diplomatic negotiations between the United States and Spain, the entire diplomatic corps are no less so. Mr. French, the British chargé d'affaires would give a pretty penny to know what has been going on between General Sickness and Spain; but, poor man! as yet he is in the dark and is floundering like a fish out of its element, and is listening and eyeing everything askant for fear something else might be meant than what is actually seen or heard. Sickness says to him, "My dear sir, all these stories you hear about me are entirely unfounded—discredit them entirely, entirely and entirely. The United States don't want Cuba. Cuba may go to utter darkness for all our government cares about that island. My note was but a simple, courteous remonstrance against the barbaric code of laws which prevails on that unhappy isle. Nothing more, that and nothing more." We may be pardoned for assuming that General Sickness replied to him in just such a tone, yet, poor British-French is extremely dodgy; doubts, yet believes; believes, yet doubts; and asks of himself, "What is a lie called in diplomatic lexiconology?" Is it punishable by the Divine or moral laws of a diplomat to say "no" to facts quite the reverse. Mr. Editor, can you answer that question? Can a diplomat say "yes," bluntly, when it should have been "no," according to the laws of truth and can you tell the diplomatic Britisher where a diplomat will go if he tells a plain downright —

Not only is Mr. French wandering in this Stygian darkness and unexplored realm, where all is uncertain, vague, indistinct and shadowy, but Baron Mercer is at a loss to know what is in the wind. The questions he asks are: "Has that God for d— Ambassador American been trying to buy Cuba, or what? Have the Spanish government refused to negotiate, eh, God for d— Yankee; vat sail I know, vat sail I say?" Some people know the value of the monosyllable "No," and some persons do not, and among the latter you may number diplomats.

To make the subject of the negotiations more mysterious, express speed comes Paul S. Forbes, whose name was lately used freely in connection with the Cuban question. Verily, no one will answer yes to my questions, but all will say "no," freely and neither can one discern what is going on. However, I heard yesterday from a person connected with the Spanish government that Paul S. Forbes did have something to do with the Cuban question, and that he tried to buy it for the Cuban Junta of New York. That, being a well-known man in New York, of an imposing presence, rich, influential, known to General Sickness and General Prim, the Cuban had asked him to offer \$150,000,000 for Cuba. Now, I rub my hands and exclaim *bueno, caballero, por Dios*, give us more; once start the ball of suspicion, give a clue. To strengthen these clues and hints here are further evidences. General Sickness introduced Mr. Paul S. Forbes to the Regent at La Grana. Why did not General Sickness introduce another American gentleman who was there? Why did he not take, of the half score of American citizens then at Madrid some other man equally rich, influential, as well known as Paul S. Forbes? Why did Paul S. Forbes seek the Regent's acquaintance and that *edad* which comes of being introduced by an ambassador of General Sickness' well known reputation? Why did Paul S. Forbes, at various other times, seek Prim's company, breakfast, dine with him, talk, take counsel with him? Why does Paul S. Forbes come periodically to Madrid—once in April, next in May, next in June? And now he comes here again, swift on the tracks of General Prim. Lastly, if Mr. Forbes has nothing to do with the Cuban negotiation, why does he not deny it as publicly as it was asserted? Therefore we must all conclude that Mr. Paul S. Forbes, wealthy gentleman of New York, hitherto following mercantile pursuits at Hong Kong, has in these latter days, towards the decline of his life, developed into a full grown diplomat of no mean despicable talents—may be really called the American filibuster, who has done credit to his selection and to the reputation of American diplomacy, hitherto your correspondent has paid too much attention to the universal downright "no." Following Mr. French's style, I look askant, and see enough in it all to make a declaration to you that Paul S. Forbes has come back to Madrid to renew the negotiations for the purchase of Cuba, on behalf of the Cuban Junta of New York, for a sum of \$100,000,000 or \$150,000,000.

Now, about the present situation in Spain. Barcelona and almost all Catalonia are in arms. Cadix is ripe for insurrection, Jerez is agitated, Malaga proposes to rebel and Saragossa is in danger. Troops are being constantly despatched to all the vulnerable points of the Peninsula, Madrid being protected by the fourteen or fifteen loyal battalions of volunteers under Rivero. At Saragossa there were 700 insurrectionists last night; Manresa had 400; Martorell had 600. These cities are in Catalonia. There is no communication between Madrid and Barcelona by way of Saragossa, for the railroad has been taken up in several places between Lerida and the city of Barcelona. Passengers bound for the latter city must take the circuitous route via Malaga, Alcala and Tarragona. We are in hopes to hear soon of the hearing that Andalusia has risen, that the republicans of Extremadura have taken the field, that Arragon has declared for the republic. The official organ, the *Genoa*, publishes nothing except enough to prove that what it says is an untruth, and nothing governmental can be relied on. So far there have only 1,500 troops been sent to Cuba, and no more were sent for the present. Madrid but waits to hear news of one republican victory to rise against the government. Never was it in such imminent danger, and the present state of agitation that reigns throughout the Peninsula has been created by the very reckless and unbecoming way the republican volunteers have been treated since Prim's return from Paris.

It is thought here that Napoleon III. prompted Prim to this action, having declared that Spain could never prosper if the government permitted the republicans to propagandize their political tenets without censure or remark. Hence it is that the Minister of War was so arbitrary to General Prim, the republican volunteers and Señor Castelar. When the Cortes opens the republican Deputies will charge the government with arbitrary conduct, pass a vote of censure and withdraw to take the field. There is nothing more to add to my letter upon the battle of Barcelona, as it was more complete than any report yet received at Madrid, except that the artillery was employed for two hours demolishing the barricades before the assault.

The government expects an outbreak to-day in Madrid, and the troops are being held ready for it. Demonstrations of the different political parties take place to-day in honor of the anniversary of the revolution at Madrid last year. The public offices were illuminated last night, and will be to-night. The discussion alone, of all the papers of Madrid, advises the government to accept the friendly mediation of the United States government, and declares most emphatically that General Sickness has not withdrawn his note, but that he will withdraw it if it is not answered shortly. The President of the Cortes convoked a meeting of all the journalists of Madrid yesterday and informed them that the American Minister had withdrawn his note; hence the emphatic denial of the *Discusion*. But a new addition to the mystery in which this note is involved. What the Mayor of Madrid (Rivero) and the President of the Cortes (which two offices are blended together) and the same person can have to do with Sickness' note cannot be guessed, and why he should call the journalists together and tell them what General Sickness emphatically denies cannot be explained.

I have at the very latest moment received a telegram from Barcelona in which it is said that the insurrection continues and disaffected republicans are assembling in the mountains. Great agitation exists at Valladolid. No mails have come from Barcelona since the 26th. A battalion of troops left here at noon for the defiles of Despenaperros. A regiment of engineers will leave to-night for Catalonia. A strong republican force is within a mile and a half of the city of Barcelona. The troops have returned to Barcelona without daring to attack them. War juntas have been formed in all the principal cities of

Catalonia; 15,000 men are out of employment at Barcelona, and it is supposed these men will join with the republicans. Señor Iglesias, the new Governor of Barcelona, who left Madrid Monday morning, has not been able to reach his post, owing to the interruptions of the railroad. The telegraphs being cut the government are in ignorance of what is going on at Barcelona. All the militia of Spain will be required to swear fidelity at once to the constitution.

## SPAIN.

Anniversary of the Revolution at Madrid—Special Herald Telegrams and Their Explanations—General Sickness and the Cuban Question—Sewildering State of the Diplomatic Corps—Sickness' Diplomacy—Paul S. Forbes Turns Out to be a Diplomat—The Republican Insurrection.

MADRID, Sept. 29, 1893.

To-day time completes a full cycle since the revolution of last year came to Madrid and intoxicated all the people with bright visions of liberty, individual rights and the many privileges that fall to the lot of a well-governed and free country. To-day, therefore, the first anniversary of the lauded revolution, each journalist casts a retrospective glance at the days that have gone and begins to reckon up how many of the happy arguities that were cast then, just twelve months ago, have come to pass. Your correspondent, likewise very naturally opens an annual volume of the *Imparcial*, dated September 29, 1893, and finds what a difference between then and now. The first words which strike your attention are "Gloria," "Honor," "Liberty," "Individual Rights," "National Sovereignty Live Forever!" in grand primer type. I look at to-day's *Imparcial* and find the following:—"The Rising at Barcelona," "The Taragona Assassination," "Banishment of General Blas Pierrat and his Brother, General Ferdinand Pierrat, to the Canaries," "Minister Sagasta's Prohibitory Decree," "Protests of the People," "Disarming the Volunteers," "Disturbances at Jerez," "The Republicans Censure the Government for Unconstitutional Acts," "The War in Cuba." This much is the difference between then and now. Not one of the bright forecasts of political sooths have been fulfilled, and the law and the prophets have been and are set at naught. What has been done is the least minimum of good and the greatest maximum of evil. Spain is plunged millions more of realists in debt, over 10,000 soldiers have lost their lives in a Cuban war and some hundreds in Peninsular epidemic revolutions; at Malaga, Cadix, Jerez, and lately at Barcelona by republicans, and throughout Spain by the Carlists, though the government always deny that they have lost a man. Over twenty generals have been sent to Cuartel barracks at the Canary Islands, which means that they have been banished. Republican demonstrations have been prohibited this week by Sagasta; no more clubs, no more cries *Viva la Republica*, no more speech making in the streets by Castelar and his liberty-loving confreres, no more processions, no more republican banners, *deo deus* Sagasta, Minister of the Interior, isonomy is prohibited at Saragossa, Barcelona, Cadix, Malaga, and all Andalusia. Isabelline theories and González Bravo abuses are all the rage at present; the republican insurrectionists are to be deported bodily to the Canaries unless they enlist for Cuba, and the monarchical union is on the eve of dissolution. So much as related above is the result of one year. As I have kept you pretty well posted in all concerning Spain, your readers may draw wise inferences from the many scores of chapters sent to you since the 25th September, 1893.

Sunday last I sent you a special telegram thus worded:—"The government of Spain has responded to General Sickness' note very courteously, and promises reparation; they confess the war in Cuba has not been conducted humanely, they offer excuses for the insubordination, and thank America for protecting its kind intervention; but it is not known whether Spain accepts or rejects it. The probability is Spain has not answered the intervention clause, and it is believed General Sickness will withdraw his note if it is not answered shortly, as it is not becoming the dignity of a great nation like America to wait long for a reply to such courteous letters. Paul S. Forbes arrived at Madrid this morning." Another despatch was sent to you last night containing the following:—"The present situation of