

The Spanish Press on the Foreign Press Correspondents—La Prensa Calling for the Expulsion of Some of Them—Spanish Ideas as to the Result of a War with the United States—Spain and Secession to Use Up the Great Republic—The Power and Weakness of Spain—Arrival of Troops—The Insurrection in the Peninsula Declared Ended—Projected Reforms.

HAVANA, Oct. 18, 1869.

A certain dignified and highly conservative journal, published in this city—one which believes in the existing order of things and deprecates change—of whose editor, it is said, "he shed tears when her most Catholic Majesty Isabella Segunda was compelled to flee from her home and throne of her ancestors"—*La Prensa*—has, of late, been much exercised in reference to the correspondents of foreign journals resident in this city. For these unfortunates not to tell the truth as it is in the land of Don Quixote, not to see an early termination of the insurrection, not to give credit to Spanish justice, magnanimity and mercy while contemplating the manner in which the war is carried on in this island, constitute a crime, and *La Prensa* seems to think it is time notice was taken of it. Naturally the correspondence of the *HERALD* touching the possibilities of a war between the United States and Spain first attracts its attention, and second to this is a statement, in such correspondence, of the well known fact that the Captain General here is hampered and obstructed in his administration of the government by that same turbulent and unruly spirit which expelled from the island the legitimate representative of Spanish authority in the person of General Dulce. In reference to the war *La Prensa* states that it would not be popular with the Spanish residents of this island, and it claims at the same time that the Captain General has all necessary power to carry out his behests, and adds:—

The correspondent who denies these truths, and who, with the pious object, no doubt, of exciting against the good Spaniards of the Island of Cuba the odium of the least educated of the people of the United States, says to the contrary and talks of the reported dangers which citizens of that republic are in here in Cuba, has lost the right to remain among us as a friend or as a neutral and impartial foreign correspondent.

It is not my purpose, for it is not deemed necessary, to reiterate the statements thus referred to and denied by *La Prensa*; as they are true or false they will stand or fall. My object is rather to place before the readers of the *HERALD* certain extracts from the editorial columns of this journal, written in connection with the aforementioned denials, as showing the prevalent idea of the relative power of the two countries and how possible it is that from so much ignorance a war may result. Says this paper:—

Suppose, for a moment, that the provocation of sympathizers, the false notices of correspondents, weakness or erroneous calculations on the part of Congress should cause what, as we stated yesterday, all Spaniards desire to avoid. Should it commence, our people will act with the same vigor and perseverance with which they have carried on all wars since the time the Spaniards proved their character "away back to the point which escapes historical chronology." It is easy to understand the immediate and remote results of the war. Although the great republic should take advantage of the opportunity of a foreign war in an inter-tropical climate to arm and send out of its territory hundreds and thousands of freedmen and convert them into soldiers of liberty for Cuba the effort to conquer those who have sworn to put an end to the enemies of Spain would not be found so easy as is thought. Before our assistance would commence the parties into which are divided our neighbors will have thrown into the face of the authorities the costs of the operation and the indispensable losses which the great republic would of necessity experience.

In the existing circumstances of the United States it would be more difficult for that Power to arm 100 ships of war and embark an expedition of 80,000 soldiers, either enlisted or freedmen, than for Spain to arm fifty steamships which belong to individuals, withdraw all her mercantile marine, send 80,000 Spanish soldiers to reinforce the Antilles, and arm here all those who do not care to change their language, their laws and their faith.

We believe that the correspondents of the Anglo-American press know very little of our character and resources, and consequently cannot comprehend all of strength and energy which is hid under this apparent weakness. For this reason they have laughed at us; for this reason they have fostered, at the cost of Spain, American vanity, and suppose us ignorant and badly informed when speaking of the relative power of the two nations. It seems that these correspondents do not consider that if they, by misfortune, should begin a war between Spain and the United States it would not be one of short duration, as in the Crimea or as those of Italy and Prussia, which we have seen in the past fifteen years. A war between the American republic and Spain would last many years and would not terminate without the intervention of other nations. That which would follow in a federal republic, divided into parties and with the interests of the inhabitants of one section and another antagonistical, God only knows; but it is possible to suppose that at the termination of a long war there would remain no real republicans nor republican institutions.

This may be said to be disposing of the great republic with celerity and with a vengeance. Touching the hidden strength and energy of Spain, perhaps the correspondents may be excused for not discovering them, as the veil of weakness, as exemplified in her treatment of the insurrection, is so entirely impenetrable.

It will thus be seen that even among the most intelligent of Spaniards the idea is entertained that Spain, torn by internal convulsions, with the fires of revolution burning all over her land, with Carlists, Isabellinos, republicans, the supporters of the regency, all mixed in one undistinguishable mass of war and tumult; with an insurrection in her chief colony and most important province, which after a year of effort she has done absolutely nothing to suppress—Spain, with her bankrupt treasury, obtaining loans at such sacrifices as in themselves are ruinous, is capable and ready to enter upon and maintain a war with a nation admittedly one of the most powerful on earth, resting her hopes, perchance, on that wild chimera, a revivification of secession, which, at least, every American knows is as dead as that proverbial "herring which is red."

The concluding remarks of *La Prensa* are so characteristic of the Spanish people, they so show with what dignity Spaniards can accept the inevitable, that I can scarcely refrain from quoting them. It says:—

Spain has made enormous sacrifices, lost one continent, but concluded the war with honor, and was content. A war with a great nation would cost us dear, as to-morrow we may see; but we will leave it erect and with glory, and, if it costs us a piece of earth, we are able to select and colonize another, while our enemies have to suffer irreparable losses.

Quantum sufficit. We have nothing additional from the insurrection. A steamer with 1,000 troops arrived here yesterday, and another with about the same number to-day.

A review of the volunteers and the ceremony of blessing the banners of the respective battalions took place yesterday.

The Captain General has received the following telegram, dated Madrid, the 16th, and signed Prim:—

At four o'clock to-day Valencia surrendered. The republican insurrection is completely ended in all the peninsula.

The Intendente, who holds a position similar to the Secretary of the Treasury, has proposed to the Captain General many reforms and economies which are of great importance and very necessary. He proposes to reduce the various staffs, from his legal advisers down. At the same time he states that in the Accountant General's office this cannot be done at present because the accounts are so far behind. He says that with the Bank of Havana there are unsettled accounts since 1864, numbering 2,423, though it is proper to add that this is not the fault of the present Accountant General. The Intendente expresses himself confident that with the assistance of the Captain General he shall be able to accomplish the reforms proposed, which, without doubt, are much needed.