

OBITUARY.

General Don Domingo Dulce y Garay, Marquis of Castelforte.

The death of this distinguished Spaniard, widely known on this Continent as the late Captain General of Cuba, is announced by a telegram from Madrid as occurring on Tuesday. Born in the city of Botes, Spain, during the year 1803, of noble parents, who claimed descent from a line of illustrious ancestors, he received a good education, and on arriving at manhood adopted the military profession. His first service on the battlefield was during the Spanish civil war, when he took part against the Carlists. He, however, does not appear to have done anything more than to show himself possessed of great personal courage, which was brilliantly exhibited in 1842 and at once gave him a distinguished position in Spain. During this year Dulce was a captain in the Spanish army, and commanded the palace garrison, which numbered forty-eight men. In order to obtain possession of the Queen's person and destroy Espartero, General Diego Leon, at the head of 1,000 men, attacked the palace. The suddenness of the assault was a surprise to Dulce; but rapidly regaining his presence of mind he gathered his little garrison together on the stairs of the building, and after a severe struggle, in which he acted with conspicuous gallantry, succeeded in repulsing Leon with heavy loss.

This defence, which has rarely been surpassed in modern days, made his fortune and established his reputation. He was promoted to the position of gentleman of the bedchamber immediately after, and in 1847 was made a brigadier general of cavalry. Two years after Queen Isabella promoted him to the rank of field marshal for further distinguished services against the Carlists. He was also appointed to numerous positions of prominence and responsibility, such as commandant of the provinces of Seville and Saragossa, &c. In 1854 he conspired with Marshal O'Donnell in the Vicalvaro insurrection. He was then in command of the cavalry at Madrid, the officers and men of which he seduced into following his lead. His prompt action in sustaining the Vicalvaro *pronunciamiento* was undoubtedly the event that enabled the union liberal party to triumph. As might be supposed, he was rewarded by the victorious revolutionists in a manner commensurate with the magnitude of the service. Positions of greater trust than he had ever held before were filled by him and the rank of lieutenant general in the Spanish army.

For six years General Dulce remained in Spain, and during this time Serrano, now Regent of the Kingdom, and then at the head of the government under Queen Isabella, availed himself of the opportunity offered for introducing reforms in Cuba. He selected Dulce to carry out his policy, and appointed him Captain General of the island—an office the most valuable and sought after of the many held under the Spanish government. In 1860 General Dulce arrived at Havana. Proceeding energetically to work, he introduced numerous measures of reform, the carrying out of which was so vigorously executed that before he had been on the island many months he had attained a popularity among the Cubans never before won by any of his predecessors, with a single exception. But while he thus endeared himself to the natives, he incurred the enmity of the Spaniards, whose hatred of the Cubans and advocacy of absolutism caused them to regard with disfavor the tendency of the Captain General to establish, even in a modified form, an era of constitutional rule. Many of the obnoxious decrees promulgated by former rulers were revoked, the Cubans were admitted to official positions of responsibility and their liberties generally enlarged. The marriage of Dulce to a native Cuban lady of wealth added no little to the esteem in which he was held by the people.

But in course of time the inevitable change in the administration of affairs on the Peninsula was wrought. The liberal government went out and Narvaez became the ruler. It was not long after this event that General Dulce was recalled and General Lersundi appointed to succeed him. He returned to Spain, and was for some time quartered at Madrid. While there the Cross of San Hermenegildo, bearing a pension of 600 escudos, was conferred upon him. A few months later he was arrested on suspicion of being engaged with Serrano, Zabala, Cordova and others in a conspiracy to depose the Queen and place her sister, the Duchess of Montpensier, on the throne. As the principal revolutionists of Spain possess a happy faculty of saving their heads, General Dulce escaped capital punishment and the last revolution restored him to influence and power.

One of the first acts of Serrano on coming into power was to appoint Dulce Captain General of Cuba. When he reached Havana the insurrection on the island was already in full blast, with no prospect of a compromise being accepted by the insurgent leaders. Nevertheless, to do him justice, General Dulce at once made efforts to bring about a restoration of tranquillity. On the occasion of his recall, some years previous, he had, in his farewell proclamation, assured the people that wherever fate called him he would remain ever a Cuban. Remembering this assurance that he had given he endeavored to stay further effusion of blood, which Lersundi could have prevented had he not been hopelessly deaf to every dictate of sound policy. Commissioners were appointed to confer with Cespedes and other leaders, who rejected every compromise short of the independence of Cuba. Finding no other alternative left him Dulce prosecuted the war, but because of his desire to deal mercifully by the insurgents taken prisoners the volunteers of Havana deposed him. These last mentioned events are of so recent occurrence that the reader is well acquainted with them.

General Dulce returned to Spain before his successor, General De Rodas, arrived. He never after held office. That he failed to pacify Cuba was hardly his fault. The people of that island had dealt in compromises too often already to trust the government of Spain. Dulce, though, was undoubtedly actuated by liberal sentiments, which under different circumstances would have strengthened his popularity in Cuba and added to his reputation.