

## SPAIN.

**Effect of Castelar's Speech—Admiral Topete's Response—A Warning—Prim—His Ambition and Probable Aim—Republican League—"The Pact of Tortosa"—Strength of the Republicans—Fears of Coming Trouble.**

MADRID, May 24, 1869.

Your correspondent cannot do better than by prefacing this letter with a text, concise and striking, which is extracted from the reply of Admiral Topete to the magnificent speech of Señor Castelar, because this very original text, though it come not from the mouth of a babe and suckling, nor from a fool, reveals things that would shun daylight, and endorses what your correspondent, time and time again, has stated in his letters.

The text is as follows:—"But to-day the Señor Castelar, with his grand eloquence and his inimitable style of oratory, has told us that it is not possible for this Chamber either to proclaim a republic or to proclaim a monarchy. Well, then, why was the revolution made? This has not only been said by the Señor Castelar, but likewise by the Diogenes of the republican party, the Señor Pío Margall, who told us last night that no Chamber can form a republic, and the Señor Sanchez Ruano (republican) tells us that our king shall be brought hither by but one Chamber. But, señors, take much care with what you say. If this Chamber may not proclaim a king, neither a regency, take care, much care, that you do not invite the genius of some insolent, bold, ambitious man to proclaim what shall be done."

This remarkable and most important paragraph was omitted by each one of the fifty and ten daily journals published in Madrid. The *Diario de los Sesiones*, which is but the record of the Cortes, is the only paper that has it, from which it must be concluded that the other journals purposely omitted it.

Each time that Admiral Topete speaks the frankness and bluntness of the sailor exhibit and relieve themselves of whatever secret thoughts may have been conjured in his poor brain. "That insolent, bold, ambitious man" would have given a good deal, there is no doubt, had those words been left unsaid, but he was absent, purposely absent, because he knew Castelar intended to twit him sharply upon some reports afloat concerning him and his intentions. The "insolent, bold, ambitious man" did not re-enter the Chamber until Castelar had ceased his oration and Topete had concluded his reply. This insolent, bold, ambitious man is no other than Don Juan Prim, Minister of War, proposed President of the Council of Ministers, the third Cromwell, and would-be Dictator of Spain. One may well imagine how General Prim received this declaration of Admiral Topete. It was no secret to the Cortes who was meant by Topete, nor can it be secret to General Prim, though he may seem not to understand the insinuations, and may yet, to no purpose, however, reiterate his innocence of ambitious thoughts and protest over and over again his entire abnegation.

But the Cortes, knowing well the style which this adventurous descendant of the great Guzman keeps, and holding well in remembrance the vague threats and masterly hints coupled with his protracted silence upon the monarchical question, his general taciturnity, his affected staidness of manner, appreciate his protestations as such should be.

But can it be possible that this announcement by Admiral Topete is what has impelled the Cortes to legislate with such railway speed upon the laws which are to govern the land for the future? It is just possible. Thirty-seven articles of the constitution were voted the very next day without even one amendment, without even one set speech, and almost without intercalations or interpellations of any kind from any of the most speech-loving members among the Spanish Cortes. The quotations of the Bolsa could not affect either the stately Castilian hidalgoes or the fiery Catalonians, be they Guzmans or Medina-Sidonias of bluest blood. The opinions of English or American journals upon the condition of Spain or Cuba affected them not, but Topete's bluntness produced a spur which seems to have awakened them to sharp action. Since Friday last seventy-five articles have been voted. Last night at midnight they left off at article 109, which leaves but three more to be voted to make the constitution complete.

The decision of the Cortes respecting the form of the Spanish government has driven the republicans of Catalonia, Arragon, Valencia and the Balearic Isles to send committees to the city of Tortosa, a place of some 16,000 inhabitants in the province of Tarragona, near the mouth of the river Ebro. The united committees framed a compact which is now known under the name of the "Pact of Tortosa." Some of the paragraphs of the articles read thus:—

For continuing and solidifying the labors of the revolution; for the salvation of the country from perditions machinations of false friends as well as the declarations of our enemies; to complete with all the might of patriotism what our conscience tells us Spain demands; to defend our country from sterile agitations and days of spoliation and devastation, we, the representatives of the republican people of Arragon, Catalonia, Valencia and the Balearic Isles, animated by the firmest resolution to raise our voices against the march of reaction, have drawn up the following basis of an agreement entered into by confederated committees at Tortosa, which we present to the Spanish republicans for their most thoughtful consideration:—

**First**—The citizens here assembled, by whom the three ancient provinces of Catalonia, Arragon and Valencia and the Balearic Isles are represented, are confederated together, to whom the cause of the republicans and the revolution will be referred.

**Second**—We likewise proclaim that the form of government most convenient for Spain is the democratic federal republic, with all its legitimate and natural consequences.

**Third**—The democratic federal republicans of the above provinces are organized in the following manner into local committees, judicial districts, provinces and of States:—Local committees shall be established in each population; those of the judicial districts where the chiefs of the party reside; those of the provinces in each capital of said provinces, and those of the State at Barcelona, Valencia and Zaragoza, representing respectively Catalonia, Valencia and Arragon. Those of the Balearic Isles will be included with those of Catalonia.

The representatives here convened declare they do not consider it convenient to appeal to material force, because the Cortes Constituyentes have voted the monarchy, for the principles proclaimed by the revolution will not be always conculcated; but, convinced of the evils that will inevitably be produced by a return of the monarchy, decline all responsibility for those that may be occasioned by its establishment.

This "pact" will be heard of again; oftener, perhaps, than may be acceptable to whatever king may be elected. It will turn out to be a Jacobin club, very probably producing the same effects that its prototype did in France during the restless years of the French revolution. Many of the volunteers of liberty in Spain are republicans. Lieutenant General Nouvillas, Military Governor of Catalonia, is half a republican. The colonels and captains of the 5,000 volunteers of liberty, now preserving the peace of Madrid, are mostly republicans. Deputies Lermi Garcia Lopez and Garcia Ruiz are colonels of this civil army, and these deputies are rabid republicans. Garcia Ruiz is the editor of the republican paper called *The Pueblo*, and he it was who stirred such a storm of indignation lately upon the head of Lieutenant Ruiz Zorrilla, Minister of Public Works, for having said that the volunteers of liberty were but encumbrances in times of peace. Serrano's electric voice and Prim's subtle coaxing were needed to rescue their unlucky co-mate in the Cabinet from being sacrificed by the indignant republican minority.

The Spanish army is said to number 80,000. If the rage of battle were thrown down to-morrow by the republicans one-third of the entire army would go over to their side, while nearly every member of the Grand Army of Volunteers of Liberty would pronounce for the republic. But this immense number of men were previously without a head; there was no central bureau or authority from which orders could emanate for guidance during a crisis. Hence the importance that must be attached to this republican Cortes of Tortosa. They will be those who will rule all decisions concerning republican matters. The republicans of the Cortes Constituyentes will owe their seats to their influence, and must, as a matter of course, vote as they decree. Another feature of this society of modern Spanish republicans resembles closely that of the French Jacobins.

"In the days of 1790 the French Jacobins did, in the Palais Royal, dine with open windows, to the cheers of the people, with toasts and with inspiring songs." So our Madrilenian republicans have formed themselves into clubs, all governed by one mother club among the chiefest of the "Pact of Tortosa," and at this mother club there are dinners given, where the diners, with open windows, to the chorus of shouts and noise of trumpet blows, dine upon richest pucheros and unctuous ollas, after which harangues are delivered, said by some magnificent Madrilenian Englishmen to have been extracted from "Jacobin Debates."

The most inflammatory speeches have been delivered at Sevilla. Some of the republican papers contain letters from these, which end with "Live the republic and death to monarchy." These sentiments are uttered very freely in all the great southern cities. Malaga, Cadiz and Alicante greet their brothers of the Tortosa Pact and cry "Viva la Republica, y Muera la Monarquia!" and say with magniloquent perorations, "Men of ideas always do their mission in congresses, but men of action organize their parties and work in the provinces;" which proves that they quote Mazzini, as well as French Jacobins, to which they also add Castelar's famous saying:—"The period for martyrs and apostles is gone; now has arrived the time for warriors and victors." From these facts your readers may learn that though telegrams come from all points of Spain daily, informing all residents in Madrid that "tranquillity reigns in all parts of Spain," a volcano is smouldering and rumbling.