

The New Constitution—How It Was Received in Cadiz—A Tame Reception—The Regency Question—The New Consul—Cuban Affairs.

CADIZ, June 9, 1869.

The last light of the many prepared to impress the people of Cadiz with the virtues of the new constitution expired last night in the midst of the most profound silence and a dead calm. The most energetic preparations had been made to give this solemn act—the promulgation of the new constitution, or, as it has been styled, the code of Serrano, Prim & Co.—a fitting reception; but a more lamentable failure has never been witnessed within the white walls of Cadiz.

All the office-holders were out in full force, ditto the army and navy. To give the *funcion* a respectable appearance the alcaldes of the villages and towns in this province were invited, the Common Council and the foreign consuls. The latter body have a horror of civic powwows in Spain, because they are generally treated as intruders and have no particular place assigned them. However, they resolved to have a meeting before they decided to take part in the ceremony. All were in favor of turning out except the Austrian Consul, who, remembering a bungling affair in 1862, declined to have anything to do with the demonstration. The English and Russian Consuls did not appear, but the French and American attended and agreed to don their uniforms, in compliance with the request of the Governor and as a token of their kind feeling towards the government for the time being. 'Considerable speculation was indulged in as to the probable appearance of the American Consul. He, of course, responded to the Governor's invitation, and appeared in his uniform, that of an American military officer. The procession assembled in the Governor's house at two o'clock P. M. and perambulated about two-thirds of the city. The spectators were very numerous. Each roof—*azotea*—and balcony had a fair share of "the charming girls of Cadiz," and the sidewalks were blocked up in many places by the silent hundreds who looked and gaped and held their peace. Arriving in the plaza San Antonio, the consular body, alcaldes, &c., ascended the platform, which had been hastily erected the previous evening. The secretary of the Governor read the constitution. In the midst of his labor a battalion of infantry entered the square and the few hundred persons assembled near the platform skedaddled to a safe distance. This movement was the most unfortunate, because it gave the promulgation a very warlike appearance. The housetops and balconies were crowded, but the attendance in the plaza was poor indeed, and the *vivas* were confined to the uniformed gentlemen in the vicinity of the platform and the dependents of the Governor.

After the secretary had read the new constitution the Governor made a speech. He was greeted by the aforesaid *vivas* and one "Death to the Republic;" but a dozen "Viva la Republica" was the response. The people in general remained very decorous and eloquently silent, because the battalions of Spain were at hand, and the history of the country contains too many tragic episodes which were inaugurated at the conclusion of *funciones*. Prudence, therefore, told them to stay away, or if present to abstain from any kind of dissatisfaction. The majority of the citizens of Cadiz are republicans. They do not believe in the new constitution, because they know that such instruments have no binding force in Spain: because they remember the perjury of Ferdinand VII., the villany of Maria Cristina and the carelessness of Isabella. Constitutions in Spain are like dicers' oaths—taken only to be broken. It is not a rigmorole of fine chapters and well arranged sections they need, but a thorough, radical cleaning out of the whole concern of crown and bauble. When the system that has impoverished the land is dead and buried beneath the mountain of the people's hatred a constitution may be acceptable, but until then the farce of last Sunday may be repeated *ad libitum*, and no one will be gullible enough to believe in the new born constitution.

The people of Cadiz are divided into three classes—the republicans, the *neos*, or old monarchists, and the progressive democratic Serrano-Prim loyalists. The former abstained from taking part in the demonstration because they do not believe in any constitution that recognizes a king or queen; the second from a holy horror of insurrection, a sense of profound loyalty to the immaculate lady who is now in Paris, and a desire to keep the balance of the blessed oil of coronation for the legitimate heir, and not for such profane fellows as Montpensier, the King of Portugal or the Duke of Wechingera-tenhaz—the latter did take part in the *funcion* purely to preserve their bread and butter, and the little gewgaws that forcibly remind us of the line—

Pleased with a rattle, tickled with a straw.

To give greater *éclat* to the affair the national flag was displayed from the respective flagstaffs each day, the troops were furnished a ration of cheap wine and ordered to put on their "Sunday clothes," and the windows of the barracks and Governor's residence were "illuminated." The latter part has been the laugh of the city. Imagine a dozen or so of blue and green tumblers filled with a kind of thick oil upon which is placed a floating wick. Ignite this and the illumination is in its glory until a puff of wind extinguishes it. Strangers would take the affair to be a wake on a small scale, as there was no sign of joy—nothing but a flickering row of lights that constantly demanded the attention of a soldier, who, very often, lost his patience and cigarette in his endeavors to keep the façade of the barracks illuminated.

The regency is the question of the hour, but it finds few supporters outside of the friends of Serrano and Prim. The fact that such a form of government has been announced, is the best proof of the uncertainty of a king remaining any length of time in Madrid, supposing that one were inaugurated to-morrow. There are persons here who suppose that the regency is to be the stepping stone to the presidency of a Spanish republic; but it is too much to expect from aristocrats like Serrano, who is a duke; Prim, who is a marquis, and Topete, who has proclaimed his aversion to a republic.

So long as the regency lasts there will be no fighting, because the republicans have resolved not to draw the sword until the King or Queen be installed. When that happy time comes—look out for a war to the knife and the same to the hilt. The faction then will have to take sides,

Under which king? Bezoniado, speak or die.

The new Consul, General Alfred N. Duffie, of cavalry fame, has arrived. I was present when he called to see the present Consul, Mr. Farrell. The latter explained to him the nature of his duties, but he quietly, when he heard their character, offered to resign, stating that he did not apply for the place; that he asked General Grant for a French consulate and was handed a commission for Cadiz; that he was not competent, &c.; but Mr. Farrell told him that he intended to leave on the 1st July, because he could not live on the salary, and as the government

thought proper to remove him, notwithstanding the services he performed in breaking up the swindling "wine rings" of Cadiz and New York, and during the December insurrection, which have been highly complimented by the late Secretary of State, Minister Hale and the people of Cadiz, irrespective of class or party.

General Duffie is a Frenchman, late a resident of Staten Island, but he is credited to Rhode Island. He left the French army in 1861 to take arms in the service of the United States. When he arrived he could not speak English, and at present speaks it imperfectly and writes it indifferently. He knows little or nothing of Spanish, and is unacquainted with the simplest duties of a Consul. His education has been entirely military, and his inclinations are totally foreign to commercial and legal transactions. He is a good cavalry officer; has made an excellent reputation during the war; but he is better fitted to command an iron-clad than to officiate as Consul at the first port in Spain and in the most important consulate in Cadiz. Mr. Farrell has delayed his departure, to the regret of "the wine ring" and the satisfaction of the new Consul, until the 1st prox., in order to instruct the new Consul.

Cuba is about to receive in place of Dulce General Caballero de Rodas as Captain General. He has the reputation of being a uger in the shape of a human being, but I think he will find it rather hot in the "Ever Faithful Island." The news published in the American papers, particularly in the HERALD, is denounced as untrue, but it so happens that the Spanish government believes it now when it is too late. Immense forces, when they are ready, will be sent to Cuba, but the *escudo* of Castile and Arragon will be a thing of the past on the first day of January, 1870, in Cuba, if the patriots hold out a few months longer and the New York Junta do a little more work and less talking. A desperate effort will be made, now that American muscle has taken a hand in the affair. Until the said island has driven the Spaniards out of the same or its independence is acknowledged there will be no king proclaimed, because Serrano and Prim are not able to fight the Cuban patriots and the republicans of the peninsula.

The Kenosha, Captain Malcomb, is at Barcelona. Her officers gave a grand entertainment to a select party of Catalans a short time ago, which has been highly praised by the participants and the Barcelona press.