

SPAIN.

The Regency Under Serrano—Playing King—The Duchess de la Torre—Economy—The Expenses of Embassies at Foreign Courts Reduced—New Ambassadors—Voice from Cuba—Movements of the Republicans—Holdenness of the Carlists.

MADRID, July 20, 1869.

The Duke de la Torre, now Regent of Spain, is acting his part with an admirable discretion—too admirable, in fact, for the hopes of his numerous political friends who elevated him to the regency. He is as dry as a rock. No place, emolument or political support can be got out of him, because, as he says, if he gave any of these things away now he would be acting unconstitutionally, he would be weakening the prestige of General Prim and the other Ministers. No, not a single thing can be extracted out of Serrano, save an invitation to a royal banquet, which he knows how to give with grace and éclat. This is bad. Look at the position how you may, it gives signs of decay. The liberal union men used their best efforts to elevate Serrano in the hope that he would weaken the progresista party under General Prim and urge Prim to give places to their own section; but they are quite disappointed. Serrano reclines on his luxurious cushions and listens in a dreamy state to the laudations addressed to him, prefaced and ended by Su Alteza (your Highness), but will neither stir to procure an appointment for a liberal-union man at the request of that section, nor will he permit one word of censure or praise to General Prim when that dignitary condescends to ask the Regent for his approval. Serrano answers, with a glacial smile, "My dear General, you knew my opinions, you knew my political tendencies before created Regent; I have none whatever now; I am acting the part of a king; I may neither censure nor applaud; I may have no political opinions now; I have but to sign what you bring me. Do what may seem good in your own eyes, but do not ask me what my thoughts are. I must approve everything you bring before me—contrary action on my part would be unconstitutional." This is the answer Prim gets. What is embodied in this answer is all that is said to all political parties. In a private capacity one may visit him, and Serrano will be found a true gentleman, affable and generous; but array him on a political ground and he becomes as glacially dumb as the Sphinx.

The Duchess de la Torre, the belle of Madrid, the most fascinating of the bello sexo, is quite the reverse of her constitutional lord. She is as haughty and imperious as Catharine of Russia. Among the fair sex and cavaliers who visit her salons the Duquesa is supreme; all must bow down before her will, otherwise the obdurate one will instantly be annihilated by her frown. If she says "Ladies must come in white muslin," the shops in Madrid are instantly besieged and white muslin bales disappear. If she says "Dress for evening will be pale orange silk," it has been noticed that her dictum is scrupulously obeyed. Even before the Duke was elected Regent she said that a week after the installation she would give a state ball, at which all ladies must attend in white muslin, and as she commanded so was it done. But the fair Duchess' imperiousness is very charming, and all Spanish caballeros who have visited her hospitable palace cry "Long life to her," and every person who has sat at the table of the Duke becomes a friend and supporter of him, so that his popularity, decreasing politically, is increasing in the social circle, and Prim and he are on excellent terms.

The economies in diplomacy resolved upon are:—The Embassy to London is reduced to \$12,500 per annum; the Embassy to Brussels to \$5,600; in Constantinople a Chargé d'Affaires replaces an Ambassador, with a salary of \$3,500; in Paris the Minister is to receive but \$25,000, and the Consul is replaced by a Vice Consul at \$1,000 per annum, and the salaries of secretaries of the various legations have been reduced \$27,500 from the original amount. The new appointments to embassies are:—Señor Oloraga, remains in Paris; Señor Rances is appointed Minister to London, in place of Señor Tassara, who was withdrawn for being found speaking his mind too freely in Paris, while en route to his charge in London; Señor Posada Herrera is to go to Rome; Señor Montemar, the progresista chief, is to remain in Florence; Señor Mazo is to be Ambassador at Vienna; Señor Fernando de los Rios in Portugal; and Señor Montesin goes to Switzerland.

General Prim is supposed to have said that if he cannot please the Cortes with his new nominations of ministers that he will resign the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and simply remain as Minister of War. If so Señor Rivero, the Alcalde of Madrid and President of the Cortes, will replace him. Rivero once in that position will soon restore peace and harmony in the Cortes; for, though the very vainest of men, he is a wonderfully talented man—as another Butler in governing obdurate men and a Draco in politics. It will take many months of dissatisfaction to remove him from the Presidency or cause him to resign. He is the only one capable of governing the discordant Cortes, and to every contumacious deputy he is as inexorable as fate. Rivero is a staunch democrat in politics; but his love of country and pride of Spain is always shadowed forth in his brief speeches as paramount to petty distinctions of political creeds. He is, next to Castelar, the most ornate orator in Spain; but combined with his gorgeous rhetoric and wildly passionate utterances is a fiery zealotry, severe inflexibility of rectitude and true philosophy which elevates him in a measure as the best orator in Spain, if not in Europe.

Caballero de Rodas writes from Cuba that he is preparing for an energetic campaign against the Cubans; that in Havana there reigns perfect tranquillity and satisfaction with the new state of things, and that he has caused to be shot nine incendiaries. Those who are acquainted with his mode of inciting telegrams regard this last sentence as an indication that he has commenced his usual manner of disposing with obnoxious subjects. They say it is very easy to give as reason for shooting nine men that they were incendiaries, but that the punishment most fitting for such crimes is imprisonment. If he sends telegrams often to the same purport, who can doubt but that the gentleman of Rhodes was specially sent to Cuba as the most fitting instrument of despotism, for in the civil war between the North and South the Americans proved that there were other means than wholesale butchery to subjugate rebellious provinces.

Maza's band of republicans, who departed for Seville, have arrived at the extreme western ridge of the Sierra Moreno, where they are said to be safely established. Their numbers are increasing, and the anxiety of the Sevillian republicans, respecting their safety and welfare, are very manifest. The youngest members of the republican clubs are ardent to join them, and their chiefs find it very difficult to check them from following the example of the insurgents. Three days ago a telegram was received at Madrid stating that the rebels had been dispersed; but from a person at Seville, qualified to know of their whereabouts, the telegram is stated to be false, and the best grounds for believing it so is the fact that the government received another despatch late last night stating that the troops in pursuit had separated into small bands for the better effecting their capture.

The Carlist manifestations continue in Vittoria, and those devoted to the cause of Don Carlos become daily more in-olent to the government troops. Those of Valencia have been sadly persecuted, all suspected of any complicity in giving "vivas to Don Carlos" have been arrested and thrown into prison to await trial. A small party of them recently left the city under cover of night; but troops were instantly despatched after them, and a few leagues from the city they were all captured and conveyed to the Presidio of Valencia. In Saragossa, at the corner of every street and in every square, has been posted the celebrated manifesto of Don Carlos. The Carlists, who in this city number nearly a half of the population, say that they propose to open the campaign in a short time, and in consequence the government is making extraordinary preparations to meet it. In other cities of Arragon, Vascongada and the Asturias the manifesto has made quite a sensation, and the statement that Carlos is determined to fight for religion and country is enthusiastically applauded and repeated by the Carlists everywhere.

Twelve ladies of Madrid have formed themselves into a patriotic-philanthropic junta, to collect alms to relieve the poor laborers discharged by Rivero, the Alcalde, for their republican manifestations on the 2d of June last.