

FOREIGN NEWS.

SPAIN.

OPENING OF THE CORTES—SPEECH OF SERRANO.

MADRID, Feb. 12.—The Constituent Cortes formally opened its session here yesterday with great ceremony. The city was profusely decorated in honor of the event. Crowds of people were in the streets, flags were flying, and the day was regarded as a holiday. The President of the Ministry, Marshal Serrano, delivered a congratulatory address on the assembling of the deputies. He said that the nations of Europe in attaining a higher degree of civilization, threw off the traditional bonds which fettered the public mind. Spain delayed for a long time following the example of her neighbors. She now calls on her representatives to construct a new edifice. The revolution has achieved a bloodless victory. The strength of the nation has not been impaired, but the extravagance of former administrations has disorganized and embarrassed its finances. The Government relies upon the Cortes to remedy this by economical reforms and changes in the administration, by wise legislation in regard to the public debt and the payment of the interest thereon, and by economizing the expenses of the army and navy. The fundamental principles of radical liberalism which had been adopted in relation to religion, the press, and education by the Provisional Government must now be consolidated by the action of the deputies. Our revolution here is not responsible for the rising in Cuba. That is due to the errors of past governments. He expressed the hope that the insurrection there would be speedily extinguished, and that tranquility based on reform would be durable. He predicted that Slavery would be abolished without precipitation and without compromising the prosperity of the Antilles. In conclusion he congratulated the country on the good relations with foreign nations, now more intimate than ever before.

GREAT CONFUSION DURING SERRANO'S SPEECH.

At the opening of the Cortes the Marquis of Santa Cruz presided, and a salute of 21 guns was fired. During Marquis Serrano's speech there were vivas for the Provisional Government, for Gen. Prim, for a republic, and for a monarchy. The confusion was great, but was finally quelled by Serrano's crying, "Viva for the Sovereignty of the Cortes." A grand review of the troops was held subsequently, and the members of the Cortes attended a Te-Deum in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Atocha.