THE REVOLUTION IN SPAIN.

RISING OF THE CORTES CONSTITUENTS—EXCITING SCENE IN THE CHAMBER—IGNOMINIOUS DEFEAT OF OLOZAGA—ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE PRIM.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

MADRID, Feb. 14.—The long deferred, anxiously expected day has come and gone. The Cortes Constituentes are at last in session, and the Spanish people have entered upon a new phase of their history, with destinies which are soon to take place will determine whether Spain is to be thrown back into the gulf monarchy, or to be launched upon the broad highway of the Republic, strong and vigorous for its long journey, renovated for its fresh struggle for national life. Were only this single issue at stake, it would be best the grand decision were deferred for a few months, because every day's delay is a gain to the Republican cause. Even, however, should the result be in favor of a monarchy, it seems possible but that the nation must gain by the revolution privileges and liberties it has never yet enjoyed; but as in such an event, these would most probably be restricted, every wide-hearted, generous soul must wish to see a republican form of government established and consolidated. Up to the present moment the whole of the deputies recently elected have not yet in Madrid, and many who are, have not yet gained their qualification or writ. It is ascertained 162—not including those for the Canary Islands, and from the Antilles—have still to present themselves. The latter are expected by the next mail. The former are permitted a brief extension of time. The Parliamentary regulation requires the members generally, to put in an appearance within eight days of the opening ceremony, so that the full complement—with the exceptions referred to—will surely be made up in a few days. Three of the four members elected to represent Logrono would, nevertheless, not be present. Don Domingo Dulce is busy attending to the affairs of Cuba, Don Baldomero Espartero prefers minding his own business, and promoting the development of his kitchen garden, and has given notice of his determination not to take his seat. Don Salustiano de Olozaga, who left his post at Paris expressly to attend, and as he fully expected to occupy the President's chair in the Cortes, will probably resign his seat, and either return to Paris in a more eminent capacity as Embassador, or retire into private life. I refer to these men on account of their prominence. The case of Olozaga is especially worthy of notice. It may probably be known to you, that Madrid quite the last moment he was not even on the list of candidates. His temperament, disliness policy and reference to the great questions of the day, such as that of religious liberty, freedom of the press and of public meeting, the emancipation of the slaves, and particularly his intrigues to secure a marriage for the monarchy he had invented—a popular monarchy surrounded by democratic institutions," whatever this may be—had little by little accumulated a prejudice against him with his own party. When the candidature for Logrono was being made up, the voters of Vico in that district offered to put him in nomination if he would bind himself not to recognize the candidature to the throne of any foreign prince. This he declined to do, and he was therefore shut out from the original list. Vico being the place of his birth, this incident had extreme significance. His refusal to accept the proffered condition implied that he was committed to the cause of some foreign candidate; his rejection by the electors proper of Vico was tantamount to an intimation that they at least did not intend to accept a King at his hands. The Government, anxious, nevertheless, to have him in Congress, placed him on its list, and worked so hard that he was elected with Sagasta, Dulce, and Espartero, though he came in at the tail of the poll. Had Espartero taken his seat, he would have been spared the mortification of another and a more ignominious defeat. The ex-Regent was looked upon as certain to be chosen for the Presidency of the Chamber, his age, high character, and past services seeming to give him a right to that important office. When it became known he would certainly not even take his seat, Olozaga at once presented himself in nomination; but Prim and the Progressista party, warned by past experience of his mischief-making propensities, resolved not to sit under his Presidency at any price. The next best man for the post was Señor Orense, but he being the leader of the Republicans was wholly out of the question. The offer of Prim, therefore, made to Rivero, by Calderon, and after some difficulty on Rivero's part, and a threat that if he did not accept, the party would nominate Orense rather than sit under Olozaga, the Alcalde of Madrid, and old leader of the Democrats, consented to act. This decision having been taken, a telegram to this effect was sent to Olozaga, and he was requested to leave Paris. But he had started. A second was in consequence sent to Irun, the frontier town, but it missed him. Here he was recognized, and had to endure the gibes of the multitude, who urged the Custom-House officials to examine his luggage thoroughly, as he had a contraband foreign King for Spain concealed in one of his trunks. At Valladolid Señor Margall, the Republican deputy, got into the same compartment, saluted by the people with shouts of "*viva la republica!*" shouts which much disconcerted the proposed "popular monarchism," and being renewed at every station, at length drove him to the necessity of soliciting a change of compartment. At Madrid he was met on Wednesday, at the station—not by an enthusiastic crowd, with banners and music—but privately by Prim, Ruiz Zorilla, and a few personal friends, and here to his intense mortification he was made acquainted with the position. Under these circumstances, he concluded to return, and accordingly went to Vico the same night, intending to stay there a few days, "to recruit his health," previous to resuming his journey to Paris. The punishment is severe, but well-merited. Had Olozaga been as honest as he is unquestionably capable, he might at this moment have been the foremost civilian in Spain. He is utterly discredited, has no friends, even among the Moderados—to which section he belongs—and will most likely now be coldly received by the man at the Tuileries, who has the superstition common to political sun-worshipers, not to bow to the setting luminary. Olozaga had played so important a part in the events which led to the revolution of September, that his fall becomes an historical event of some importance. It must be regarded as an enormous gain to the cause of true liberty, for his counsels were all in favor of reactionary measures, and the actual perplexed position of the Provisional Government may be attributed wholly to their pernicious influence.

The ceremonial of the opening of the Cortes, on Thursday, the 11th, was attended with much more of the pomp and state of past times, than many think was consistent with the simplicity of Republican institutions. Some 22,000 troops of all arms, and civilian volunteers, lined each side of the middle of the streets, from the *Presidencia* to the *Congreso*, forming a double hedge through which the Ministers and the *cortege* passed. The day was simply magnificent, the atmosphere perfectly transparent; the sky of the deepest blue, and without a cloud; the sun gloriously bright, and hot as in May in the temperate zone. The best part of the population was afoot, and the usual accompaniments of public manifestations—draperies of the national colors—hung from every balcony in every house in the *Calle de Alcala*, the *Puerta del Sol* and the *Carrera de San Geronimo*, the thoroughfares traversed by the procession, and every window has a balcony, the effect of this mass of colored hangings may be imagined but cannot be described. The balconies themselves were crowded with well-dressed persons of each sex, who seemed thoroughly to enjoy the magnificent spectacle presented by the orderly maneuvering of the military, and the not less imposing though irregular movements of the masses gathered below. The crowd was, as might be expected, densest in the immediate neighborhood of the Chamber of Deputies. Already, overnight, many people had taken up their station at the door leading to the public tribunes or galleries, in the hope of securing good places. The majority were doomed to disappointment. These galleries cannot contain more than 500 persons seated, but the authorities seem to have been bent upon trying the experiment of packing into them at least four times that number, for more than 2,000 privileged admissions were issued. The ceremonial was to commence at 2 o'clock, but by 11 in the forenoon every gallery was already fully occupied, except that set apart for the Embassadors of Foreign Powers. The very worst possible arrangements were made. Either no cards—save to the Press—should have been given, or measures should have been taken to prevent the crowd from forcing its way in when the galleries were known to be full. But nothing of the sort was attempted, and as the officials were incompetent, unassisted by police or military to keep back the multitude clamoring for admission, the rush and pressure became terrific when the doors were foolishly opened. At one moment some serious accident seemed imminent. Fortunately nothing but great personal inconvenience was the result, to those who like myself were compelled for three hours and a half to play the part of Atlas to a whole world of politically excited Spaniards whom no amount of eloquence, no physical effort, no vocabulary of strong words could dislodge. The Congress hall is a handsome interior, profusely decorated with frescoes from the pencils of Madrazo, Rivera, Cammarron, and Galdiano, the best of modern Spanish painters in this style of art. At the head of a wide horse-shoe, and is well lighted and ventilated from above. The President's table occupies what may be called the open end of the horse-shoe. From his chair the emblems of royalty had been removed, as also from the maces and other insignia of authority. A crucifix in ebony and silver occupied a prominent place on the table, at each end which stood silver salvers, with glass decanters and tumblers, and a supply of the compound of sugar and white of egg, known under the name of "azucarillos." In the horse-shoe itself are the member's seats, some 250 or 300 in all. On the present occasion a considerable number were invaded by ladies and gentlemen, who must be presumed to have been personal friends, but whose presence there certainly seemed incongruous, and condemned the legislators