

## THE REGIME AT MADRID.

That was a happy inspiration of Punch's Shakespeare when he wrote, doubtless in memory of the Bourbon establishment, "The labor we delight in physics Spain." Don Gonzales Bravo, once the keenest executive of Queen Isabella's wrongheadedness, as inspired by his own iniquity as a politician, has again come to light as an adviser in the house of Bourbon. The more liberal of his countrymen seem to estimate him as the personal quintessence of whatever is adroit and dissolute in Spanish statecraft. He is now, if anything, a delighted laborer in the cause of secret and open mischief against the present regime of Madrid. Queen Isabella promises to abdicate if the Cortes will be rash enough to recognize her son, the Prince of Asturias, as King. The proposed abdication might be something more than a powerless resignation sent in after rout and disaster. The Queen means to say that if the Spaniards will set up the house of Bourbon once more, she may not be eager to urge the invasion of her country by her adherents under Gasset in the South of France. Her secret agents may cease trying to excite revolt among the more bigoted and incorrigible portions of the Kingdom. She may endeavor to refrain from keeping it in that chronic condition of fever excited by the witchcraft of royalty, even when discrowned, disgraced, and bedraggled. Some might think that with such self-denial Spain could be saved a war at home and an island abroad—this, too, though the Queen's ex-Captain-General, Concha, is almost in despair about it, and the Queen's organ, the *Gauleis*, surrendered the case of Cuba three months ago. Gonzalez Bravo, on his part, views the situation more hopefully for his royal mistress. In short, he vetoes the abdication, if that be possible. We suppose, then, there is still a fair-seeming field for intrigue in Spain, and a mass of corrupt material fit for the infusion of the poisons of Bourbonism; else so cunning a politician as Bravo would not count upon the shreds and patches of power which are left to Isabella. We cannot believe that the Spanish revolution will go backward; but the talent for retrogression which such men as Bravo possess is both malign and earnest.

While the Cortes has debated upon monarchy and the church, we are glad that its tendencies and feelings as to the need of a decided government have so far consolidated as to make it probable that Marshal Serrano will be made Regent. This is, at any rate, one step toward decision. The Cortes, after voting the national sovereignty as a fixed principle of the Spanish Constitution, elected the monarchy as its form of government, and now all that remains is to choose a king. Whether a king shall be made out of native clay, as Garibaldi suggests to the Republicans, or whether he shall be bought from among foreign wares, is the Spanish problem. The declination of Fernando of Portugal discouraged the king-makers, and the candidature of the Duke of Aosta was likewise a failure. Of all those who were nominated for the throne, the Duke of Montpensier alone holds out with any vitality of claim. Since one of his relatives has publicly described him as a cold-hearted and narrow-minded man, and the Liberals of Spain appear to have no love for one undistinguished for prowess or talent, Montpensier hardly offers the material out of which sovereigns of popularity are made. A large and influential element will resist the fatality of his imposition on Spain. It may be as easy in time to make a king out of the Regent, the Duke de la Torre, as of one who has never been Regent, and has never been military, or statesmanlike, or popular, or Spanish—the Duke of Montpensier. Logically, Serrano's chances for the sovereignty ought to be as good as those of Montpensier. We are aware that the latter is powerfully favored by Admiral Topete, whom some call the Farragut of Spain—a very Spanish Farragut at that; but Montpensier, if chosen by the Cortes, will, it seems, be forced upon it. The latest dates, however, point to the possible choice of a son of Don Fernando of Portugal, who is to connect himself by marriage with the house of Montpensier. In any issue it is important that the Spaniards shall decide themselves out of all danger of anarchy.

Abelard Lopez de Ayala has resigned from the Spanish Cabinet, wherein he was Colonial Minister. We are rather glad of that. Ayala promulgated the unjust and deceptive law by which the Cubans were to be cheated of a great part of the franchise due them. He was also accused of having retarded all patriotic effort respecting the abolition of Slavery, and of having been an instrument of the more inveterate and powerful class of slaveholders in Cuba. All that we know of him is that the laws which he has issued to the Cubans have only added fuel to their fire.