

Madrid May 11th 1843.
(Thursday morning)

My dear Papa ✱ We received yesterday New York papers to the 1st April
ly, on same packet which brings dates to the 4th. It was some relief to
the feelings caused by the account in your letter of W. going to court;
to find in the proceedings of the Senate that it was not to pass without
condemnation: We are all interested very much to learn the result
of Mackenzie's trial; tho' it seems hardly possible that the Court
dares ~~not~~ honorably acquit him - his letters and statements seem
to have been in many points very ill judged; and his ordering them
checked for the ~~deliberately~~, after the execution, seemed me bad
taste; and as a compliment in some degree, as if he were Secretary
of the Navy. I am glad to learn that the low prices of our flour
and provisions are opening for them the market of Europe: The French
papers announce that the appearance of American pork, and then
salted meat, has excited a great alarm in the towns of Normandy
and the friends of protection cry aloud for additional duties to keep
out this dangerous rival: They flatter themselves however that the
evil will be of short duration, as it is to be attributed solely to the
wretched condition of our Country, which has reduced prices to a point
at which they cannot afford to compete - In England and Italy,
Canadian wheat is sold at 3/ a quarter; the ordinary July being 20/- is becoming a very
promising topic for agitation, and Hedges, flour et contris, are

respectively given by the applicants for the "sweet voices" of unrepentable Electors. From the German & French papers it appears that in spite of the representations (made by order of the Governments) of the condition of those who emigrated last year, 125,000 Germans, with as much as 5 millions of dollars, have made arrangements to emigrate during the present season. The greater part of these will be valuable additions to the substantial strength of the Country, and have in other things led us to hope that we will soon shake off the evils which had befallen us, and our own extraordinary character have brought upon us. In the mean time gold seems to be flowing in upon you from all quarters, and the and other safe stocks rising - It is quite a little triumph after Mr. Robison's unsuccessful efforts of the Govt. stock at par to be increased at some 100.

There is no doubt from what we have seen in a ministerial crisis for four or five days. On Sunday last as soon as the Chamber of Deputies was constituted by an overwhelming majority, an opposition candidate was made speaker - he, however, resigned the same evening, but since that time it has been found impossible to form a new Cabinet, and the old one holds over, of necessity the whole affair is made of little miserable intrigues in which the interests and the character of the Country are sacrificed to the vanity and personal ambition of the leaders of sections - Without any difference of vote in relation to the domestic & foreign policy of the Nation the "progressives" or reformers are divided between these leaders who alternately combine and separate, without having apparently any other fixed object than to embarrass the existing Government. Their reformers compose the great majority of the Chamber, and having been discredited last winter by the conduct of M. Alogaga, one of the leaders, a coalition placed in the chair of the presidency

Last week, M. Cortina, who was formerly the lieutenant of the late Minister - as soon as he accepted the resignation of the late Ministers, Espartero, called M. Cortina (the personally his enemy) to the Palace, and requested him to form a new Cabinet; this was undertaken but after two days the new President stated to the Regent that he could not make a ministry, which would command a majority of the Chamber. This was matter of notoriety that after the election on Sunday, M. Alogaga publicly charged his former friend with having been elected by a fraud and called upon him, to the great scandal of the assembled multitude, to quit the chair, which he occupied thus treacherously. The negotiations & consultations continue every morning the papers in large characters announce that the crisis is not over; while yesterday, (more matters for many mornings) the gossip were amazed to see the two notorious leaders I have mentioned walk arm in arm thro' the Puerta del Sol, & other thoroughfares. In the midst of all this confusion the sturdy little Duke, with an honest heart but not a very strong head, is sorely bothered to keep the machine in motion, and would no doubt be greatly relieved if the difficulty were a Jordan knot, but of which he might cut his way with the sword, an instrument he understands much better than the complicated machinery of a constitutional Government.

Friday Evening: May 3rd. - The Crisis still continues and is indeed becoming worse every hour. The Regent has successively called the three most prominent leaders of parties to form a Cabinet and two of them have returned to him to say that they cannot depend upon the support of the Chamber of Deputies. The third, Lopez, is making his effort to day - In the mean time the House is not in session but can be called together at any moment by the President, M. Cortina, and whenever assembled, it is understood that a large party is prepared to impeach the late Ministers and thus this time attack the Regent for the affair of Barcelona; in this event they would probably be dissolved and then - Heaven knows what will

happen next: - The Senate two days ago after a long & warm discussion carried by an overwhelming Majority a paragraph of their address in answer to the Queen's Speech in which the gauntlet was in some degree thrown down to France & in the first days of March. M. Guizot, being pushed hard on the Spanish question in the French Chambers, said among other things, that if there should be an attempt to take the crown of Spain from the succession of the Bourbons or the glorious dynasty of Louis 14th he should advise his Master i.e. the King of France, to interfere to prevent it - this declaration has roused the Spanish pride, and some clever & bitter speeches have been made in which the course of the French Nation in overturning these glorious Bourbons, has been well contrasted with Spanish loyalty & devotion - The Frenchmen have already noticed sharply this paragraph (printed a fortnight since) and thus another difficulty is added to the unfriendly feeling which already exists:

A committee has been appointed in the Senate to report upon the establishment of provincial Banks: and M. Mariani, one of the cleverest men, and best orators in that body, is a member. he has applied to me for information and as it is scattered thro all the reports in the office, I have been preparing ^{for him} a sketch of the financial history of the Kd. - There is now in Spain I believe but one Bank; and that one is here, "San Fernando" - the exchanges, domestic commerce &c are in the most backward condition imaginable: there is in the Spaniard, an obstinacy and objection to innovation or improvement, so strong, that it is a riddle to his own more enlightened Countrymen. W. Irving continues to improve slowly, without yet being able to apply himself to any thing or amuse himself by going into Society - his spirits suffer in consequence - he will not be well established in his health before the very warm weather, and then his physician and all his friends agree that he must leave Madrid for a month or two - should he persist in the idea of remaining here to work thro the sultry season he will expose himself to a great danger. - I had been forming a little project for an excursion to the watering places in the Pyrenees of three or four weeks, but the necessity of Uncle Geoffrey's departure, will keep me a prisoner here like the last rose of summer, to manage or mismanage the affairs of the Country by myself. You must write constantly, and make the Girls write