

as a personal favor that he would not go to the ball, ^{inasmuch} as the other Diplomats ^{being} ~~were~~ excluded, it would be improper for him. The poor Secretary urged in vain that he went in costume, that he could not disappoint the ladies, the cotillion would be broken up &c. The Minister persisted and the Secretary in distress went to the young lady, who in turn visited the Duchess and she to get over this difficulty invited the Portuguese Minister & family: this invitation ^(thus gratified) the opposition says they had the "l'assurée" to accept; but the difficulty could not end here; what was to be done with the other representatives? - after much debate, it was decided to invite them (Sunday morning) for their A.O. and invitations were accordingly issued: It had been left too late in the opinion ^{of many} and the foreign Gentlemen could not compromise official dignity by attending under such circumstances - It was ascertained afterwards on comparing notes, that the French Legation were ^{only} invited at 6 p.m. for a ball at 10. The English ditto; besides the additional offence of omitting my pretty friend Mrs Scott & her husband, while Mr. Brins & I (strange to say) had been notified to appear at 1/2 past one in the morning: this was one of the mysterious circumstances connected with this strange affair: - Bad as it was with the Foreigners, matters were still worse with the natives: The Duchess, I suppose in despair, commissioned an old gaily Court on Sunday to ask in her name several persons of the very bluest blood, and when the old gentleman

apart progress, either she had changed her mind or had
been mis understood, since she told him to undo his
Mormon's work; he remonstrated; she was firm and
with a heavy heart he set about his task, and about
the hour these grand dames were thinking ^{of their} dresses for
the eve, they rec^d. notice, that they would have no occasion
for them: - this was the coup de grace; revenge was
now the only thing thought of: some had already com-
posed the bitter notes in answer to any future invitation
from Grand Senaranda, some too impatient to wait for
this, now pass her on the Prado, and instead of the
friendly nod & wave of the hand, look happen with
their sharp black eyes: - In short this last 'valentine'
promises to be an epoch to future generations - All
this seems stupid enough on paper, but here on the
spot it is very amusing to see such confusion about
nothing among these Proud & vain Classes, which they
are ^{all} connected or related, and as a matter of course
hate one another. ✨

I have seen George's letter in the Spectator
of Feb. 11th and am highly pleased with their good
accounts of the Ram. I hope the Pamphlet has been
sent through Beaulieu.

The passing of the bill on the Oregon territory
in the Senate, seems to me a very improper measure,
and I am very glad to see by to day's papers that

a packet has arrived with dates to Feb. 15th and
that the bill will fail in the House. Mr. Tennyson's trial
excites a great deal of interest among us all; tho'
I have not much anxiety as to the results.

All the people, Foreigners & natives, are very
kind, and tend constantly to inquire about W. Irving.
The English Legation especially shows much interest.

In the ~~new~~ absence of more attractive matter Uncle
Geoffrey now and then looks over the ^{old} papers; and the
notice of a "Steamboat to South Sea every day Sunday
excepted" makes him feel quite sympathetic. At this
distance it appears to him an earthly paradise.

Have I told you of my pilgrimage to the house
in which Terrance was born & died, in the street now
called after him? - with the recollection of the liberty
& sometimes suffocating fits of laughter, which I owed
to him so long ago, I looked with great reverence at
the gloomy old Spanish house, and the medallion in
the hall, in which was a likeness in bas relief and
a short inscription: -

With these sunny days come thoughts of
excursions to Aranjuez & the Escorial, as soon as
W. Irving is ~~restored~~ restored - I should delight
to have you with me on an excursion to the latter
place, which has always struck my fancy ^{and} with
its mixed character of Convent & Palace, and its
gloomy magnificence, and seemed a good type of

the list. Philip 2nd its founder.

The Elections are just over and the Cortes meet in the next months - as the time approaches union fly about more rapidly and the Ministry changed every day or so: - The little Queen is approaching her Majority, and loses ^{every day} her childish appearance, and all the Northern powers with some to aid them, are busy in determining who shall be the happy man, her husband: - To initiate ^{her} into the pomp and circumstance of royalty she goes every now & then in state to the Royal box reserved at each of the Theatres, and the new ballet furnishes a topic of conversation to the puzzled Diplomats at the next "bon manos": - ✨

CHC

Prince Napoleon is still here, and has made arrangements, contrary to his first intention, to remain some time: he has had an audience & been to a ball at the Palace and we are with many Pierlight nods & whispers, hinting at his designs: In face he is very like his Uncle, but of a heavy ungainly figure - The Bull fights have commenced: On Sunday last, they were magnificent, more much as two men were badly wounded, one of whom was said to be in danger. This was reported to me, for I was not present. -

I send off tonight by the Courier to Madrid: but I hope to hear letters in time to acknowledge them by the same packet of April 4th - Much love to all the families in Light Street, and many kisses to the little folks. Yours Ever J.H.

Wm E. A. S.

[H 3536]