

28th April - We are all afloat again with the pleasure of receiving them - I am especially happy to find from George's letter that your steamboat affairs promise so well: my confidence in George still & address induced me to hope against my general opinion of such

dear Papa all things are well I am sure. I have now one of the longest gaps in our accounts from home since I left. The wind must have been adverse and the steamer must have failed in their appointed days since it is now nearly two months (my last date is 29th March) when I last heard from you: this long interval is most the unpleasant and I rejoice that too a true day more must bring better news.

We have had here great trouble in the political world; almost a revolution, and the future is even for Spanish affairs uncommonly dark and threatening. I believe in my last letter I told you of the difficulties which had arisen upon the fall of the old Ministry and the appointment of their successors - the new Cabinet seemed a very heterogeneous combination and not likely to command a majority: What new difficulties soon arose. The Minister for Foreign Affairs in the new Ministry (the Spanish Ambassador in Portugal) at once refused the post: The President of the new Council, Don Lopez in a brilliant speech promised much and among other things a general amnesty to unite all Spaniards. When the measure was put into shape and the bill drawn up for the Regent's sig:

Madrid Monday aft: May 22 '42

My dear

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nature it was found that it was only to extend back about two years so as to include all Espartero's bitterest enemies; the men who had been engaged in plots to overturn his government, carry off the little Queen, or even attempt his life to accomplish their object - he made up his mind however to assent to this measure: the next day at the Cabinet Council their demands rose; they required him to dismiss about 60 officers and when this list was produced, it was found to include every friend, every one in the Military Station about him; his confidential aids &c. &c. men who had fought thro' the Civil war at his side and against whom nothing specific could be alleged - at this point Espartero in military phrase halted: he took up the paper and going over the names one by one called upon the Ministers to state their objections; these he is said by one party to have answered completely, and then to have declared that he would not consent to their removal without cause - The Ministers answered in turn by offering their resignations which he declined accepting and there the matter ended for the day: rumors flew like wild thro' the City and the Cortes were in great excitement - The next morning however the President of the Council was sent for to Buena Vista, and informed that his resignation and that of his colleagues was accepted, and that the President of the Senate, an old gentleman turned of 70, was charged to form a new Ministry - The announcement of this in the Chamber of Deputies gave rise to a most stormy debate: some proposed that the Chamber should declare itself permanent and talked in the most revolutionary style: He then President of the Council when he entered the Chamber to read the decree of his appointment was rec'd with shouts and yells not only from the Galleries but the Members on the floor who among themselves proceeded from violent words to blows and outrages of a personal character - When the session ended the new Minister was with

difficulty saved from the mob, which collected in front of the building who pressing round his carriage, saluted him with a shower of stones - as the City continued in an excited state, the troops were under arms in their quarters, and strong bodies posted at night in commanding positions: - The Chamber having been adjourned for a week nothing new has occurred for the last two days, save the falling off of the new Cabinet: You shall now hear what is said by the two parties: The friends of the Regent declare that the great object of the late Ministry was to drive him from power, either by inducing him to resign rather than yield to their grasping demands, or by gradually removing all his supports & undermining his strength, prepare the way for a coup de main: In proof of this they urge ^{the conduct} of this short lived Ministry of nine days, and the fact that the names of a new Regency of three! to consist of the Infante Francisco de Paula, an ex Minister, friend of Queen Christina, and Mr. Olazaga, one the leaders of the popular party! were circulated among the parties in the plot: I have since heard that the young French Charge d'affaires imprudently exclaimed that "little was wanting to the resignation of the Regent"; this is I believe very near the fact, as I have understood that on the night of the day in which he was so severely tried he had thoughts of leaving Madrid with his escort, and abandoning the reins of a government which his enemies would not allow him to carry on either advantageously to the Country or ^{with} credit to himself - Espartero's enemies say he was dissuaded from this step by the advice of the English Minister, who induced him also to accept the resignation of this hostile Cabinet - Thus you see the Country passes from one crisis to another, while affairs drag on in a most irregular manner. The Contributions and direct taxes since the beginning of this year (nearly six months) are levied without the sanction of law, and should the Cortes now be dissolved, must be raised in the same way for some time

longer: amid this jumble of parties and passions the Constitution is only appealed to as a means of attack against an adversary and is I am convinced unfitted in its present shape for the actual condition of the Country: I have not seen these events as closely as I could have wished having been quite ill for the last three weeks and during the last fortnight confined to my bed - a bad cold with a fever and I think a slight chill accompanied of course with great derangement of my "digestive organs", reduced me so much that our man Benjamin told me one morning consolingly, that I "looked wonderful bad". - In fact I starved myself to a pretty low point, but finding that did not answer after a learned consultation with my Doctor, I varied the treatment a little and find myself much better in consequence - I rode out this morning with Mr. Irving and the air is bringing back my strength and appetite. In a few days I hope to be as good as new - I suppose it's a sort of annual settlement and I shall ^{now} be free of the guild for some time to come:

~~By~~ This steamer you will receive a letter from Miller enclosing a note or draft for about \$200: - Don't mention it to the girls unless they discover it accidentally, or they will trouble themselves about my privations here and thus diminish the enjoyment I wish to afford them: It will reach you about the 22nd June, and enable you to take them for 8 or 10 days to the Springs, or indulge them in some other way more agreeable to yourself & to them:

I can say nothing of my own plans for the summer as they depend on Mr. Irving who is variable: his disorder returns at intervals and his spirits are very bad: I have to exert myself for both - Good night: I hope to write again for the steamer tomorrow or the next day but I am too tired to say more to night: A kin to my dear Numa and the buttons: Join affec Son Alex: H.

Tuesday Morn - May 23: Thanks to the good ship Britannia which has made a very quick trip we have this morning our letters to the