

last ~~evening~~ ^{ride}, when his life was saved by the merest chance - about
midday, as they were riding on at a round trot under one of the
hottest of July suns, they discovered a heavy ^{cloud of} dust about a mile ahead
on the direct road - all felt at once that this was Concha's army.
Cavazos in disgust and Espartaco's army faint and worn out with
illness and fatigue, drew his sword and expressed his determination
to cut his way through the enemy, if possible: as he advanced
the other party charged. Gen. Concha and drawing off to one
side allowed a free passage to the little troop of the Regent.
It appeared evident that Concha's army then dust, and not
knowing how complete had been the defection of the Regent's
followers, retreated as fast as possible: during the night having
learned how he had excited Concha's advanced guard some
into Port St. George by two or three and Espartaco was raised
from his bed to go on board a dynamo steamer, from which he
hatched to the ~~the~~ Sabana: not without arrival and reception
in England, yet have no doubt seen: - it is certain that orders
were given to shoot him wherever he should be found, and as was
felling, the execution of these was entrusted to Genl. Concha; his
connection with the Regent he had loaded with favours which had
been repaid ^{by Concha} ~~by~~ ^{in 1844} in the plot to carry off the little
Queen, one of which one of the leading features was the abducti-
on of Espartaco. In their hurried flight the fugitives were un-
able to take with them their clothes, and every thing was pillaged
& plundered, the Regent's motto being sold among the goods for a
"peseta" (Eccento) a piece.

Espartaco and his followers of their rank, titles, and honors of every kind, and have shown itself so bitter and severe against him that it has aided much in producing the reaction which already exists:

As I anticipated from reading the accounts while in the Pyrenees, the struggle between the opposite parties who banded together to pull down the constitutional Gov^t of Espartaco has already commenced, but has reached a point of hatred and open rivalry quite beyond my expectations. - Narvaez at the head of the military force, has gained over the Ministers of War, Serrano, and another member of the Cabinet, and with the moderado party, friends of Christina and generally nobles, wishes a strong government; marriage with the Queen with the Duc d'Aumale, and if possible, under pretence of plots and insurrection, to establish a military Gov^t and declare Madrid in a state of siege: they do not affect to consider the constitution, and but for the Constitutional members of the Ministry would have declared the Queen of age without waiting for or consulting the Cortes: These last Ministers are supported by the various fractions of "progresistas," liberals, who began the opposition to Espartaco, on the ground that he turned out the present Gov^t, when they formed his Cabinet notwithstanding ^{that} they had the confidence of the Cortes - there is besides the party of the Infante Don Francisco de Paula, the Queen's Uncle, or rather of his wife Dona Carlota, who wishes to marry her son the Duke of Cadix, to the Queen, and who has ruined ^{her} family to raise money during the late contest; selling jewels, carriages, everything, to make partisans and carry her points according to the universal system of bribery - She is a most unprincipled woman

and was sent away from Madrid last year ^{by Espartaco} for attempting to compromise the Queen personally, then 12 years old with her son rather older: - she had access to the Palace without that supervision which was subsequently exercised.

Don Francisco's party have joined the "Ayacuchos," friends of Espartaco; and the people now in power already talk of heresies, factions & plots: there is little question that their position is extremely precarious & unsafe: they are illegal from the very outset, and have postponed too much the meeting of the Cortes, which can ^{alone} give them a lawful existence, and determine the great question of the Queen's majority - Even the troops whom they have taught sedition, revolt, & mutiny, and all the worst ^{facets} of soldiers cannot be depended on - two days before my arrival, an insurrection broke out in the Principe regiment in barracks in the city, and the revolted 600 in number held out for some time, demanding the full discharge which had been promised them in Barcelona; where they were the first to declare against the Regent: Narvaez behaved with great energy & determination, went himself into the midst of the insurgents and quelled the mutiny: he then decimated them, and was on the point of shooting the whole 60, when Serrano, War Minister, interfered and required a drum head Court Martial: It was held at once, and 8 men found guilty - at 10 in the morning the troops were drawn up outside the gate of Toledo; formed in hollow square; ~~waiting~~ and such was the uncertainty as to the temper of ~~the~~ the men during the execution, that cannon were placed at the angles of the square; the artillerymen with matches lit ready to fire upon the troops at the least sign of misbehavior: the poor devils died with the greatest coolness and the Chaplain who confessed them, has I understand stated that the promise they claimed

was really made to them by Lerrano - Narvaez afterwards made a speech in which he told the troops, as if in ~~recognition~~ mockery, that sedition & revolt were the worst faults of a soldier. and that tho' the blood of the army had now been shed; he should take that the traitorous blood of those who had urged them to revolt should flow in turn - This speech has made the Madrid people furious and Narvaez' party have even hinted that this affair of the soldiery was the result of plots in which even some of the Ministry were concerned.

It is deplorable to see a Country in such a condition and bad as it is. There is a just fear of an outbreak before long, to which this last revolution will be tranquillity in comparison - parties are becoming so bitter that the next struggle must be a bloody one; the conquerors will not be satisfied with overcoming their antagonists; they will attempt to annihilate them - we live as it were in the midst of an unquiet town; troops are quartered every where; are marched about continually; and at all hours of the night, you meet squadrons of cavalry patrolling.

I am writing in great hurry to make up my purchase for the Courier, which as the bay close at 10, tho' he only starts tomorrow morning - Mr. Astin follows Mr. Irving on Saturday and is a terrible loss: he joins the diplomatic corps this Evg. with the exception of this Legation. ~~Mr~~ Uncle Geoffrey is recovering himself for his journey & I am too busy and also a little tired with the farewell demure.

I send you ^{to read} for Mamma's benefit two notes from Mr. Irving while I was in France: the first written the day after my departure - the second is too flattering for anything but the partiality of one's Mamma; and I intend it for her exclusively - she will be pleased. I know.

I have received Molly's letter to the 1st Augt. and an amusing account of your trip to the Hook, your cookery and so on: it is tantalizing to hear of these things and all my especial favorites collected together: I begin to turn my eyes wistfully to the westward.