

1849  
Madrid Sept 6

Madrid Wednesday Sept. 6. 1849

My dear Papa

Mr. Irving sets off at 6. tomorrow morning with an English courier for Bayonne and Paris: I intended to have written you a long account of the late interesting events, and the many anecdotes which I have heard since my return; but my time has been completely occupied in preparing for Mr. D's departure and answering a number of official letters which had been collecting in my absence. - Two days ago I was presented to the Minister of Foreign affairs as the temporary successor, so that I am now <sup>regularly</sup> ~~now~~ charged of the Legation.

After making proper allowances for the Sympathies of friends, it seems to me clear that Espartero's fall is to be attributed to the grossest treachery in the quarters in which he had most right to place reliance - before I left he had marched toward, Valencia with 5 or 6.000 men, and at a place called Albacete he remained a long time, in what appeared a most extraordinary & dangerous inactivity: this is now accounted for by the dependance which he placed in Genl. Seoane, who was in the north (at Saragossa), with a strong force, and was ordered by the Regent, to unite with Genl. Zurbarano, also at the head of a strong corps, and march to join ~~form a junction with~~ him before Valencia: Seoane instead of obeying these orders retreated again (after advancing a short

distance) upon Saragossa, and having been joined by Turbano, was in that city in command of nearly 16,000 men. In the mean time Christina's friend Genl Narvaez also had landed at Valencia was soon at the head of too strong an army to be opposed simply by the Regent, and he could therefore march between the two armies, without interruption to Madrid. Before he arrived however Genl Aspiroz with ~~the~~ 5000 men from another quarter was observing the town at 3 miles distance and altho he summoned it to surrender, did not take any active measures to enforce it. Within the ~~city~~ great exertions were made for defence - Mendizabal the finance Minister contrived (Heaven knows how) to procure money in abundance to pay the National Guards who to the number of 13,000 men exhibited very good spirit and much enthusiasm - The gates were barricaded - ditches dug & batteries placed - the pavement torn up in the streets and a succession of batteries planted at different points; the houses on both sides of the streets most exposed were taken possession of. and two men posted at each window: in short every arrangement made to dispute the city step by step and at last it was said, would be made at the Palace & round the persons of the young princesses: - here the diplomatic Corps thought proper to interfere and various protests were drawn up which failed; at one time from the disposition of the English Minister; at another of the French Charge - a final meeting was held here, and a note drafted by Mr. Spring, who felt great anxiety for the safety of the two little girls, which met the approbation of all and was signed by ~~all~~ the diplomatic corps in a body. The Govt returned a polite answer declining their services.

As soon as Narvaez joined Aspiroz matters

became more serious - Narvaez, who has the reputation of a "brutale", is certainly not deficient in energy - he threatened the city in good round phrase, if it did not surrender, that it would be exposed to all the horrors of war, and added that he considered himself the instrument of providence to shed the treacherous & traitorous blood of Madrid: the key to this is, that the insurrection which expelled Christina began with the national guard here - a sharp fire of musketry (the assailants had very few cannon, & there by it pieces) was kept up for several days; and it is hardly possible, if the defence had been serious, that the force then before it, could have captured the city. In the interval after lingering at Saragossa, <sup>Seoane</sup> began to march with Turbano's division upon Madrid and the hopes of a relief and the defeat of Narvaez were very high among the Regent's friends. Narvaez, allowed Seoane to approach within 30 miles of Madrid without giving himself any concern as to his movements, and wrote at the time to a friend in the town "Estoy seguro, segurísimo, del golpe" - (I am perfectly certain of the blow) - and subsequent events justified his security - that there was an understanding between the two <sup>leaders</sup> ~~generals~~ appears probable from the conduct of Espartero's General: he had a fine train of artillery and cavalry and was urged by Turbano, who was faithful to the last, when the two armies were in presence of each other, to allow him to <sup>scatter</sup> ~~destroy~~ the enemy with his cannon from a distance, and then finish the work with the cavalry & Infantry - instead of this the attack was made with Infantry in close column, the cavalry following, and the artillery last of all. After a few sheets were exchanged, by which a few <sup>men</sup> were wounded, the officers & soldiers left their ranks, embraced & fraternized, as the French would say, & the contest was ~~at~~ ended - Turbano fled with his Aid de Camp <sup>into Madrid</sup> & Seoane made prisoner, set out in a few days for

France - Espartero now at the head of 30,000 men repeated his menaces. Seville and Madrid surrendered: a capitulation had been made with a stipulation that the National Guard should retain their arms, but the day after the troops entered they were vigorously disarmed - From the self appointed Minister of War Serrano; and other generals, continued to pour in until 50,000 men were collected within the walls of the Capital - Every corner was filled and the troops bivouacked in the Squares and public gardens - the Catalans a wild, robber-like set, with their red caps, long guns and want of discipline, terrified and disgusted the Madrileños who considered themselves invaded and trampled upon.

Espartero had before the fall of this city, marched towards Andalusia, relying upon Seane's army to protect Madrid as he knew it to be superior in numbers & every other respect to the force which could be opposed to him - Having joined Van Halen, and Cordova and other towns returning to obedience, he advanced to Seville in the expectation that if the principal town were reduced, the rest of Andalusia would yield. - he met with a very determined resistance, bombarded the city without effect for several days, and as his despatches from Madrid were either wickedly or stupidly intercepted; he continued his fire two days ~~longer~~ after the ~~capture~~ news of the surrender of the Capital might have reached him. - as soon as he was informed of this event, he raised the siege of Seville and marched towards Cadix ~~persuaded~~ by his connection Genl. Concha - at Alroera a town <sup>on his route</sup> he arrived with about 10,000 men, <sup>in the evening</sup> and the next morning found himself abandoned by all but his escort of cavalry, and one or two companies of infantry of his favorite regiment of Luchana: he now hurried on by forced marches, and was obliged to get over 18 Spanish leagues or about 70 miles on his last day, into Port St Mary; a little town on the ~~off~~ side of the bay, opposite to Cadix - he had a narrow escape on this