

Madrid Thursday Evening Nov. 7th 1843

My dear Papa:

I have just finished a long despatch of many foolscap pages to the government, giving them an account of the late events here, and I will now recapitulate a part of it for your benefit:

On Saturday last after three weeks work the Chamber of Deputies had united a sufficient number of members to be constituted and elect a President: Mr. Olozaga, who had returned a few days before from his mission to Paris, was generally designated as the candidate: I believe I have told you that the "progresistas" (liberals) and moderados, united to put down Espartero, and after his fall called themselves the "parliamentary party": Olozaga, the son of an obscure country physician belonged to the former, and was with Cortina his rival, at the head of the party - very soon after the provisional government was established, Cortina showed signs of disaffection, and in spite of all efforts to conciliate him, at length announced "that he did not accept the situation," or in other words declared himself an enemy to the gov^t - under these circumstances Olozaga became all important to the moderate party: he was appointed Minister to Paris, Instructor to the Queen, and at length made a Knight of the Golden Fleece: this last was a bitter pill to the Aristocratic party; the order in question being generally confined to Crowned heads and royal princes, and only possessed by a very few of the oldest houses in Spain - the provisional Ministry of

Lopez, it was expected, would retire as soon as the Queen was declared of age; and M. Olozaga, who had been intriguing against, and had overthrown, some half dozen ministries, would then desire to accept office and carry on the government.

This was the state of things up to Saturday ^{last} the day for the election of the President of the Chamber - all the caucuses which were held to bring about a union of parties, or rather of factions, having failed in their object: - after ~~balloting~~ ^{balloting} twice, Olozaga was elected by a majority of only six votes more than the number requisite for a choice - Cortina being his opponent: It is now reported that Olozaga with such a feeble support will not undertake the formation of a Cabinet, and as ~~the~~ Lopez and his friends retire, the little Queen runs the risk of being abandoned by constitutional advisers at the very time when she will be in the greatest need of them - It is certainly a most complicated position. - The Moderados and friends of Christina influence the army, the Navy and the other generals; but tho they assert they have also with them the majority of the nation, it does not appear so from the constitution of the popular branch of the legislature where the progresistas greatly outnumber them. - In all this confusion there seems very little importance attached to a difference of principle; men are all things, political opinions, nothing. - It would be difficult to say on what points of policy Olozaga & Cortina differ save the cardinal ~~ones~~ ^{ones} of being in or out of office. - Every body intrigues with every body else - sometimes it seems as if they were in opposition from the mere love of a row, since it has happened repeatedly that both Olozaga & Cortina have pulled down a ministry, ~~would~~ ^{would} being willing to build up one in its place. - I am told on good authority that one of the present ministers is at the same ^{time} in correspondence with Don Carlos and Genl. Linage, the Agent of Espartero in Galicia, and it is confidently asserted, that Cortina who was bullying the Lopez Cabinet and obtaining

whatever he wanted for his friends ^{in Madrid} was at the same time stirring up the insurrections of the provinces and aiding to overthrow the government which he had so lately helped to establish.

The President having been elected on Saturday - on Monday the subject of the Queen's majority was taken up; and after being discussed two days, the voting by the two chambers united was fixed for Wednesday: long before the appointed hour, the streets leading to the Palace of the Deputies were occupied by the people, and the tribunes & galleries crowded with spectators: the Deputies & Senators sat together promiscuously; the President of the Senate taking the chair: - The members voted successively as their names were called; for a long time it seemed as if question would pass unanimously, but at length a no was heard, followed by 15 others, all received with murmurs of disapprobation. - The majority however was very large; the numbers being 193 to 16: upon the official announcement by the Secretary "the Cortes declare of age Queen Christina 2nd." the Spectators in the galleries broke into loud "vivas" in which were soon joined by the Senators & Deputies who rose in their places and cheered simultaneously waving their hats in the most uproarious manner. It was a very exciting scene, all who were present taking part in it except the foreign representatives. - The session closed amid shaking of hands and mutual congratulation between members and lookers on; and the news was soon spread over the city by the ringing of bells and firing of cannon. - In the Evening there were serenades and illuminations; and like true Spaniards the people are pleased with a "funcion" without thinking much about the end or object of it.

To-morrow Friday the 10th is the day appointed for the ceremony of coronation and taking the oaths: - I have just received an invitation from the Introducer of Ambassadors, who announces that the Queen will proceed at 2. pm. to the Palace of the Senate, and that the ceremony will be celebrated "de gran gala" - one of the first acts of the new royalty is to be a grand dinner to the distinguished strangers who reside at her Court and who have not for some time been troubled by regal hospitalities. - My long friend Mr. Livingston goes about with me to the shows and fights and

has been fortunate in coming to Spain at such an interesting period.

The Insurrection still drops in at the old points and has lately broken out in new ones - Vigo an important port of Galicia having revolted about ten days ago. It seems likely that the declaration of the Queen's majority will have some effect on these places, who ^{they} affect great veneration for the royal authority in general and this little Queen in particular.

12
James. A. Hamilton Esq.
New York.
Westchester County.
U.S.

Memor. 3
15th Nov. 53.



Double.

48 55
34
1 25
11 50
23
28 14.9

likely a
influence

I am delighted that ~~our~~ ^{domestic} affairs are sharing the prosperity of the country and look forward with interest to the first performances of the "Eureka"; a name of good omen at least: - you must think of me this winter, should any opening present itself; as I have no inclination to defer my return beyond the period you mentioning June and July next: I begin already to think of rearing strawberries from one's own vines. - Good night - I must dispatch my package by tonight's mail to the punctual Miller, for the steamer of the 14th.
Many kisses to Mame & the Girls. Yours affectionately son
J. H.