

Why Alfonso Leaves Spain at a Critical Moment

Ex-Attache Gives Real Reason and Also the One Circulated by Foes of the Premier.

(Copyright, 1910, by the Brentwood Company.)

Spain just at present is the storm centre of Europe. The country is not drifting, but actually steering, and that rapidly, toward civil war, which is preferred by a considerable moiety of the people to the struggle on which the present government at Madrid has embarked against the Roman Catholic Church. In fact, events are moving so quickly in Spain that it is difficult to attempt to portray the situation, which changes from day to day. Brief sketches, however, of the personality and character of the principal actors in the crisis may prove not only of timely interest, but also of use in reaching an understanding of the news arriving in the United States by cable in the immediate future, for in judging "Cosas Espanolas"—that is to say, Spanish affairs—those looking at the latter from a purely American point of view are likely to find themselves at sea unless they know something of the various leaders and bear in mind that the character of the people, their traditions, customs, prejudices, train of thought and conditions of life are wholly and entirely different from those existing in the United States.

The key to the crisis is the health of Alfonso XIII. It is so gravely affected that he is not expected to live another twelve months, if, indeed, so long. His father, it may be recalled, succumbed to tuberculosis of the lungs, the end coming very suddenly. It is known at every court and in every diplomatic chancellery of Europe that the present King is afflicted with the same malady to such an extent that his lungs are almost entirely gone—so much so, indeed, that death may come to him at any moment, as quickly as it did to his predecessor on the throne. His nerves are completely wrecked, largely in consequence of excessive cigarette smoking, and he is, moreover, suffering from some aural and nasal ailment, involving a deterioration of the bone, which has made rapid progress during the last two years, has defied both medical and surgical treatment, has subjected him to much mental and physical torture, and, according to some, is destined either to rob him of his reason or of his life before many months are passed. Indeed, there are many people in Spain who are firmly convinced that the young sovereign's mind is already affected, and this story is being diligently circulated by the foes of the government in order to create a popular belief that Alfonso is not altogether responsible for his actions in giving a free hand to the administration.

What is true, however, is that the King is very ill, and that his nervous system is shattered. He has been obliged to give up both polo and pigeon shooting, in which latter sport he was formerly an adept, but for which he no longer possesses the requisite steadiness of hand. It is his health, indeed, that has caused Premier Canalejas and the members of his government to consent to his leaving Spain for a visit to England just at this present juncture. It is hoped that a sojourn in the Isle of Wight, followed by some weeks in Scotland, may arrest, even if it cannot cure, the malady with which he is afflicted. This is, indeed, the only reason why he

has been permitted by his ministers and by the principal political leaders remaining loyal to the dynasty to leave the kingdom at a moment when it is in the very throes of the gravest crisis which it has been called upon to face since the restoration of the monarchy, thirty-six years ago.

Under no other circumstances would they have approved of his departure for Great Britain, of all places, for the foes of the government in its present war against the Church insist that Prime Minister Canalejas has been encouraged to inaugurate hostilities against the Papacy, the clergy and against the religious orders by the support which he received from young Queen Victoria and by her alleged ultra-Protestant mother, Princess Henry of Battenberg. Indeed, the people are taught to believe that Queen Victoria's conversion to Roman Catholicism just previous to her marriage was insincere; that she has remained at heart a Protestant, and that she has behind her not only the entire English royal family, to which she belongs, but all Protestant Great Britain, in influencing her husband to endorse Premier Canalejas in his conflict with the Roman Catholic Church.

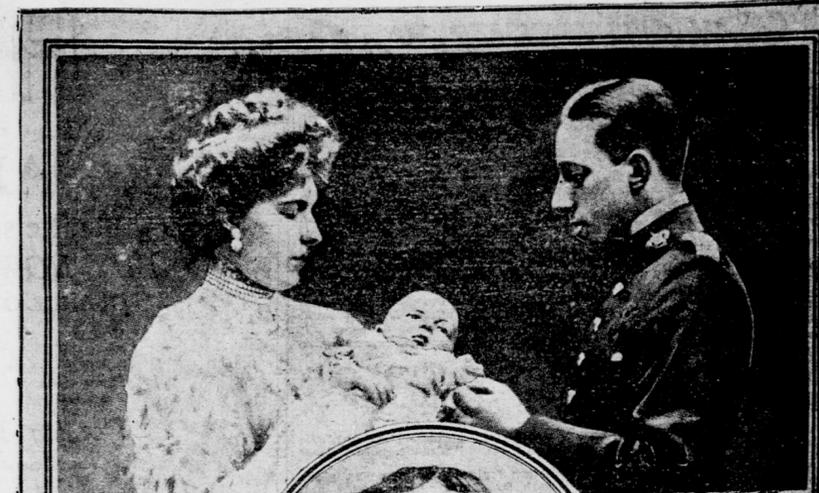
It is notorious that Queen Marie Christine and the other members of the reigning family of Spain are opposed to the policy of the administration in this sense, that they believe that by the use of more tact, diplomacy and conciliation concessions from the Papacy could have been obtained and the break with the Vatican averted. The interpretation, therefore, placed by the opponents of the government on the departure of Don Alfonso in this hour of danger is that it is designed to remove him from the pro-Catholic influence of his mother and his other Spanish relatives, to render him still more submissive to the views of his wife and of her English kinsfolk, and to seek courage and obstinacy in Protestant Great Britain for the war of his ministers upon Roman Catholicism.

Prime Minister Canalejas and all those who are supporters of his policy, as well as all the most devoted friends and kinsfolk of the King, are thoroughly aware of the construction that has been placed upon his quitting the country just now, and appreciating the harm which is bound to ensue therefrom, to the administration and, above all, to the dynasty, would never have sanctioned it had it not been for the critical condition of the health of the young monarch.

That Alfonso's death would precipitate a revolution is universally conceded. It would result in a Republican and Socialist uprising in every city and town, especially in Madrid, which is represented in the Cortes exclusively by Republicans. There would be no question of a regency. The Spaniards, no matter of what shade of political opinion, would not tolerate for one moment Queen Victoria in that position. For she has failed to render herself popular, at court, in society, or among the masses, and the people have gradually become accustomed to blame her for everything done by the King which does not meet with their views.

Brought up under the immediate eye of her grandmother, the late Queen Vic-

KING AND QUEEN OF SPAIN WITH INFANT PRINCE OF ASTURIAS.



CARDINAL MERRY DEL VAL. Power behind the Papal throne.



M. CANALEJAS. Premier who is fighting Rome.



DON JAIME. Pretender to the throne.

toria, with whom she lived, and whose favorite grandchild she was, she was exceedingly spoiled, and when she went to Spain seemed unable to realize that it was necessary to sacrifice her own views, prejudices and inclinations in order to conciliate the people of the land of her adoption. She remained far more aggressively English, opinionated and self-willed than her aunt, the Empress Frederick, in Germany, and not only neglected to pattern herself after her mother-in-law, who, coming to Spain under much less auspicious circumstances, nevertheless won the regard and admiration of the hidalgos, but even has given the impression that she is averse to Christina and resents the consideration accorded by all to the Queen Mother.

Were Christina, in the event of Alfonso XIII's death, to be invited to resume the regency during the minority of her little grandson, the now three-year-

old Prince of the Asturias, there would be so much interference on the part of the child's mother as to render the task of exercising the reins of sovereignty almost impossible. In fact, a regency is regarded as well-nigh impracticable, even by those most loyal to the present dynasty.

Motives Moving All the Principal Characters in the Government's Difficulty with the Vatican.

Sagasta administration was determined to deal with the Antilles in the most liberal spirit in political and economic matters. He carried away with him an impression quite as satisfactory about President McKinley and the leading American statesmen as that which he had left behind him here, and proceeded to Havana with the object of communicating what he had learned of his friend, Governor General Blanco, to whom had been given a free hand by Sagasta.

Unfortunately, Spain was represented here at the time by Dupuy de Lôme, a man of extremely traitorous temperament, disposed to take a jaundiced view of matters and terribly prejudiced with regard to everything American. He sought, without success, to influence Canalejas against the United States while the owner of "El Heraldo" was here, assuring him that none of the statesmen whom he had met at Washington were sincere, and continued to argue in the same fashion by letter after the departure of Canalejas for Cuba.

One of these letters, in which Dupuy de Lôme bluntly accused President McKinley of the most outrageous hypocrisy and double-facedness, was stolen in transit through the mails—presumably by some Cuban employe of the postoffice at Havana—and without ever having reached Canalejas was published in extenso in the Cuban and American newspapers. Of course this rendered the departure of Dupuy de Lôme from the United States imperative, which was no great loss. But, unfortunately, the publication of the letter served to undo all the good accomplished here by Canalejas, creating the totally erroneous impression that he shared the views of Dupuy de Lôme, and that the Spanish government, in whose name he had spoken semi-officially, but with so much eloquence, was insincere and hypocritical.

Canalejas, unlike most Spanish politicians, is a man of considerable means, and if he accepted the office of Premier and inaugurated the anti-clerical reforms which have developed into a full fledged war against the Church in Spain and the Vatican at Rome it is because these reforms have been promised over and over again by Liberal statesmen; in fact, by each Liberal administration that has held office since the restoration, nearly forty years ago. Every Liberal Prime Minister has been afraid to fulfill his pledges, and the rank and file of the Liberal party, embracing most of the urban population of the kingdom, as well as the manufacturing and commercial classes, ended by deserting en masse to the Republican camp, despairing of any real reform from a Liberal administration.

brusqued matters where he could be negotiated in a friendly spirit and practically precipitated a conflict with the Papacy, which while it has had the effect of bringing many Liberal deserters back from the Republican camp, nevertheless alienated the bulk of the rural population, all the clergy, the religious orders, the Papacy, and a greater portion of the old provincialistocracy from the crown.

Whether it has been wise for Canalejas to do this is very questionable. He has assured of a long reign by Alfonso XIII there might be some advantage. But with the certainty of the young sovereign's early death, the impossibility of a regency and the extreme probability of a revolution culminating in a public, it is doubtful whether Canalejas has acted judiciously in turning against the crown just those particular elements who have been for the last thirty years its principal supporters—namely, the Church, the provincial nobility and the rural population.

It is because Cardinal Merry del Val himself, whose father and brothers have long been in the service of the Spanish crown, realizes the condition of the King's health, that he is unwilling to make any sacrifice of the Church's rights and position in the peninsula, feeling sure that no agreement with the present regime at Madrid could be of a lasting character. He knows, moreover, that the establishment of a republic would entail still greater loss to the Church. That is why he has induced the Pontiff to pin his faith upon the Carlist pretender, Don Jaime, whom he has had a number of conferences recently at Rome. Don Jaime will not move until civil war breaks out in Spain or a republic is declared. But he regards Rome and in the capitals of Europe as inevitable. He will place himself at the head of the followers in the northern provinces, to defend the rights of the Church and secure possession of the throne of Spain.

AT ST. MORITZ, SWITZERLAND. St. Moritz, July 28.—The season is at its height. Interesting recent affairs have been the mid-summer fete here at St. Moritz. In many of the Swiss resorts the custom is maintained of holding wrestling matches and other physical contests in connection with the usual choride or gymnastic events. The eighteenth annual meeting of the wrestlers of North-eastern Switzerland has just been held at St. Moritz, at which the most expert wrestlers were present. The contests were won by the old favorites.

AT A WEDDING BREAKFAST. After a marriage recently the bride party partook of a sumptuous breakfast toward the end of which a younger bride of the bride got up and amid solemn raising his glass:

"Ladies and gentlemen, I have to propose a toast, which, however, must be drunk standing. Please take your glasses and rise up."

The guests, although somewhat bewildered by the young scaprogue, who will remain standing for a few minutes, I'll find out who has been sitting on the new hat."—Tit-Bits.

Triumph of an American Woman in Shakespeare's Old Town

Her Prize Play Presented at Memorial Theatre by Benson's Company.

Stratford, July 26. The ordinary traffic of the old borough in the genius of its one great man has been happily varied this week with two unique incidents. The first has been the gift of the honorary freedom of the town for the first time since Garrick received it, in 1769. It has been awarded to Mr. F. R. Benson in recognition of his eminent services and single-minded devotion in awakening throughout the kingdom "a more lively and abiding sense of the true value of the words of Shakespeare." He had richly earned the velvet certificate bordered with Tudor roses, myrtle leaves, rosemary and trefail, and the casket of Stratford oak worked by a carver at Shrottery.

He has spent his life since he was at Oxford in popularizing the works of Shakespeare and in adding one play after another to his repertory; and he has succeeded in making the spring festival at the Memorial Theatre a national and dramatic event of the first importance. With joy, pride and gratitude he has accepted this splendid tribute to his labors, and proclaimed himself Stratford's "knave, friend and serving man." With laurel wreath from the burgesses and roses from Stratford's fair women, he has been drawn in triumph by his associates through the town in a landau, morris dancers leading the way and merry crowds applauding.

In quest of the lame boy in the dark maze of the forest, made a passionate appeal to the Piper to restore the lost child. This was good drama, played with subtle power by Miss Marion Terry, shaking softly the herd bell which the boy loved and holding out her arms in mute entreaty. At the close of this touching scene the Piper yielded to the silent glance of the Lonely Man of the wayside crucifix.

In the final act Hamelin marketplace was seen in the early morning, with the desolate townspeople coming from mass and a light glimmering in the room where Veronika was dying. To this homeless town without children returned Barbara, in bridal array, with the sword-eater; and following them was the mercurial Piper, with the tidings that the children were living, but spellbound. The first to be released was lame Jan, after the dying mother had been brought back to life by the joyful news; and not long afterward, as the pipe sounded above the barking of the dogs, the children came with a joyful rush in twos and threes, and were embraced by their parents.

At sunrise Hamelin was again swarming with children, and everybody was eager to have the thousand guilders paid to the Piper. That wayward genius gave the money to the sword-eating bridegroom, and picking up one of Jan's winged shoes hung it up by the shrine. In an instant he was off for the high-



F. R. BENSON. Who produced the play and received the honorary freedom of the historic old town.



JOSEPHINE PRESTON PEABODY. Mrs. Lionel Marks, of Cambridge, Mass., whose play has just been produced at Stratford-on-Avon.

No Famine of Chorus Girls Apparent on Great White Way

This Is the Time When Theatrical Managers' Officer Present Queer Types.

According to a Broadway manager recently quoted in Chicago, the 1910 crop of merry villagers will be extremely poor. There's a corner on show girls, and the market in "squabs" and "broilers" is advancing. "Ponies" rule firmer, with few good consignments in sight, and as for the

prise beauties of the front row, they are rapidly being lost to art, in order to satisfy the matrimonial, homemaking ambitions of the Johnnies. At least so declared the voracious manager in question.

The editor sent out a reporter post haste to investigate this report, for is not the chorus girl the prop of Broadway? The drummer may go to the demitisse bow-wow; mighty syndicates may organize, dissolve and reorganize; but consider the incomparably greater ruin and general upshot should the show girl become extinct, like the lamented dodo or the ever-to-be-regretted megalithium. Lobster palaces must put up their shutters; bald headed sitters in Orchestra A and B stay home of nights; wigmakers, costumers, beauty doctors and manicures lose their best customers, while even the "angels," or backers of productions, must flee the lath-and-canvas scene, thus cruelly robbed of its romance.

The reporter got out of the subway at 42d street and anxiously scanned the White Way to note the chorus girl famine. Just at that moment four high stepping "ponies" tripped by. Not only their rakes skirts and semi-transparent hosiery proclaimed their calling, but their chatter was musical comedy shop talk in the choicest accent of Bow Bells. "Hands across the sea!" reflected the reporter. "Old England stands willing and ready to help us should our native crop peter out. An English invasion of this kind our gallant guardsmen and naval reserve will never attempt to repel!"

"Yes, a few of the girls who have kept their throats clear have succeeded in marrying well, leaving a vacant place here and there in the ranks. Plenty of new comers are glad to step into their shoes. And they you ever reflect that for every show girl who captures a rich Johnny for a husband—some written up and rolls in luxury after there's at least a hundred or two of the other less fortunate kind?"

"Whom do they marry? Why, actors, agents, small fry managers, theatre employees, hangers-on, non-professionals, usually they keep right on playing after they marry; in fact, if they marry the fellow—somebody with a little 'pull' and business—it means steady work and decent pay. This stuff about show girls being scarce on account of rich men snubbing 'em up for wives is paper talk—a playwright's pipe dream!"

Undoubtedly the chorus folk of 500 sexes would like better pay, and some of the girls whose good looks and talents are especially valued by musical comedians are demanding increased salaries. On the average, though, (as the reporter learned), wages of "the merry merry" will not be raised. The tendency of theatricals the coming season runs in the other way.

Continued on fourth page