

SPAIN'S UNLUCKY KING.

Ominous Future for the Juvenile Monarch.

The Country Is Overburdened with Taxes and Harassed by Rebellions—Dark Spots in the Royal Family History.

The eyes of all the world have been turned upon Spain lately, both on account of the firing on the *Allianca* by a Spanish gunboat and of the resignation of the Sagasta ministry under the most remarkable circumstances. Spain is a land of moods and tenses, and at present its people are engaging in both. The military, led by Field Marshal Martinez Campos, have been goaded to the point of open revolt by the taunts, deserved or otherwise, of the press of Madrid. The press, with the customary candor and courage of newspapers, have decided to fight, if necessary, and have taken drastic precautions in barricading doors and in purchasing arms. A boy of nine is king of Spain under the regency of his mother, Queen Maria Christina, an amiable and estimable woman—but a foreigner. The country is overburdened by taxes, is harassed by rebellions, small though they may be, in Cuba and Manila, and is threatened at home by military revolt. How long the royal house can withstand all these shocks remains to be seen.

King Alfonso XIII., who will be unlucky if superstition counts for anything, is the grandson of Isabella II., a woman with a number of pasts. Unlike the Isabella in the burlesque of "1493," she is not a "queen of great propriety," but is inclined toward ultra bohemianism. She came of good stock. Blood does not always tell; or, perhaps in this case, it told too much. She was born on October 19, 1869, her father being Ferdinand VII. of Spain, and her mother Christina, daughter of the king of the Two Sicilies, and granddaughter of Charles IV., another king of Spain. When three years old Ferdinand II. died, and Isabella was acclaimed queen under the regency of her mother. The latter had a love affair with a young dragoon, who, because of it, was created Duke de Rianzares. After eleven years of "marriage" the pope bestowed a nuptial benediction upon them. Shortly afterward Isabella reached her majority, the age of thirteen, and at once validated her mother's left-handed marriage. Then Isabella concluded to follow in her mother's footsteps, and did so with such enthusiasm and energy that soon all Europe was aghast at the young girl's amours. This life lasted three years, when a family council was called, and it was decided to marry Isabella to her cousin on her father's side, Don Francisco d'Assisi. Despite vigorous objections by Queen Victoria, who objected to French predominance in Spain, the marriage took place on Isabella's sixteenth birthday.

Don Francisco was a physical wreck, and had he been anyone but a duke he would have been considered an idiot.

Naturally Isabella did not take kindly to her husband, and bestowed her affections on Marshal Serrano. In 1851 Isabella became the mother of a son whose paternity was laid at the door of Serrano. This son afterward became Alfonso XII., the father of the present king. For thirty-five years Isabella reigned and revelled. Then came the revolution of 1868, and one night the wanton queen crossed the Pyrenees to find shelter at the court of Napoleon III. Isabella's husband lived with the ex-queen while Alfonso, her son, went to school in Woolwich, England. In 1874 Alfonso was called to the Spanish throne, and Isabella abdicated in his favor. The new king, who was only seventeen years old when recalled, proved a veritable Don Juan after his return to Madrid. Like his mother before him, his punishment came in the shape of an uncongenial marriage with his cousin. The young queen died six months after her marriage, and Alfonso married again in the following year, his wife being Maria Christina, a daughter of Archduke Carl Ferdinand, of Austria, and a niece of the present emperor. Alfonso's excesses led to disease, and he died on November 25, 1887. On May 17 of the following year the queen gave birth to a posthumous child, King Alfonso XIII.

THE CROP OF NOVELS.

Works of Fiction Form the Majority of Manuscripts Sent to Publishers.

Novels form the largest part of the book manuscripts received by publishing houses, says the Philadelphia Times. Out of 100 manuscripts received during a recent fortnight by a prominent publishing firm 62 were novels. In another case 51 out of 100 manuscripts submitted during three weeks were novels. This same publisher told me that sometimes the percentage of novels would reach 75 per cent. This tendency for novel writing is undoubtedly due to the fact that the greatest "hits" in the literary world are made with novels, and this stimulates the average writer to work in this field.

Of all these novels it is plain to be seen from the figures given in the preceding paragraph that scores must be written before one is accepted. And even if a writer has a novel accepted the percentage of success is decidedly against him. During this investigation process I selected fifteen recently published novels issued by ten different houses and I learned that the entire number printed of these fifteen was 41,000 copies, or 2,733 copies of each. And in this fifteen 2,000 copies were printed of one novel—really the only successful novel of the lot. It is safe to say that of these fifteen novels the average sale of each will not reach 1,000 copies. But giving that number to each, the novel selling at \$1, the author would receive less than \$100 for his manuscript, deducting for mutilated copies and those sent to the newspapers, etc. I know case after case where authors did not receive \$50, all told, as a return for a novel, and sometimes very much less than that.

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