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[12TH YEAR.]

Translated from the Havana Au-
thors:

PROCLAMATION.

Inhabitants of the Island of Cuba,

worthy sons of the generous Spanish nation!

I hasten to make known to you, that I have this day received several manifestoes and proclamations published and printed by order of the supreme board of government which has assembled and established itself at Seville, in consequence of an act of perfidy, the most infamous ever witnessed by any preceding century; papers which as you will soon be convinced of, do not appear to have been dictated by men, but by angels; papers, finally, which must necessarily produce the vindication of Spain, hitherto played with and sacrificed, and the liberty of all Europe, which was enslaved by the same hand that has afflicted our brethren. It appears from those papers, and I am certified by persons the most worthy of credit, who have been eye witnesses of the atrocious and horrible excesses committed in our mother country in the months of April and May, that the French government, assuming the false character of friend and ally, seducing Ferdinand VIIth, the best and most virtuous of kings, by abusing his generosity and good faith, to draw him into its territories under captious and insidious pretences, and by similar felonious artifices induced his august parent, and the whole of the royal family, to follow him for the purpose of treating them, as it has done, with the utmost contempt and ignominy, and consuming lastly its horrible projects, by compelling them to renounce the crown of Spain in favour of an odious stranger, without any other pretensions than an insatiable ambition; at the same time when his executioners and assassins split the glorious blood of the inhabitants of Madrid, in return for the brotherly hospitality with which they were received and cherished, as their own chiefs have publicly acknowledged. Our language does not contain an expression adequate to characterise a conduct so horrible, which has stamped France with opprobrium and infamy, and all Europe with mourning, and carried fear and terror to the most insensible and barbarous nations. Do not imagine, however, that the honor, the greatness of character, and the majestic dignity of Spain, should have been dismayed at the sight of so much confusion and afflictive calamity. Far from it; the virtuous and magnanimous sons of the country of heroism, are determined to fight until the last of her twelve millions of inhabitants shall gloriously fall, to avenge so humiliating an outrage, their prostituted religion, their violated wives, and their murdered sons, and to rescue their adored Ferdinand from captivity. So it is, do not doubt it. They will make the authors of so much iniquity tremble, and exterminate them. They are animated by a holy rage, capable of breaking asunder the links of the chain by which all the nations of Europe are kept under oppression; they have taken such measures, as would have done honour to a Fabius, a Paulus Emilius, or a Scipio. They have concluded an armistice with Great-Britain; Great-Britain, dear and consoling name to mankind, to which henceforward should be added that of "SHIELD OF SUFFERING HUMANITY," from the same just reason, from which Spain should assume the title of "DELIVERER OF THE WORLD." They act in concert with virtuous and magnanimous Britain, for although they were but lately our foes, to whom it is unknown that it proceeded only from the violence and machiavelism of the French Government! Do not accuse me, on perceiving this assertion not to be conformable to that very contrary one made by me, in the proclamation of the 27th of January last: for, besides that, almost every government labours under certain systematical vices, and from thence commits some acts of injustice, whereby it renders itself liable to be inveighed against, and particularly when in a state of war, it became a duty of my station to frame my language according to that of my superiors, in whose name I officiated, and in which manner I act on the present occasion, yet with this difference, that my heart, with just indignation, beats in unison, and my blood boils with anxiety to be shed for our religion, our king, and our country. Be you fully persuaded, and confidently trust that the other nations, whose hearths and whose fields remain covered with the yet reeking innocent blood of the flower of their youths, which was shed in consequence of the most incomprehensible success had by the genius of desolation, having uni-

ted with Spain and Great-Britain, will return from the panic dismay into which they were thrown, and gaining new courage to cast off the yoke, they will assist at the first and most noble work of humanity, with the same fury as shown by a lioness when in-pursuit to recover her whelps. The Frenchmen themselves, that illustrious and generous nation, worthy of a better fate, will be eager to wash off the black spot, with which by their own hands, they have stained their renown. Commiserate them, and do not look upon them with odium and hatred, for they are our brethren, and will soon be our friends.—The Divine Creator of men, the arbiter of the fate of nations, is interested in this holy and exalted work, and we must not doubt of his protection. I see you full of ardent anxiety to fly to participate in its performance, but a distance of two thousand leagues unfortunately deprives you of that glorious and supreme felicity. Yet this is of little importance. The funds and sums of money for public expenditure are not less necessary than the personal service—and you have it in your power thus to participate, by means of the offering, the most salutary to mankind and most grateful to the eyes of the Deity, than any that was ever made in the Holy Temple.—Imitate the Heroines of Spain; lessen your expenses; renounce your superfluities; establish a Spartan economy; let not an ounce of gold and silver remain upon your soil but that which is dedicated to the most necessary religious sacrifices. Have you less virtue and less generosity than the Romans, when the victorious Hannibal marched towards Rome? Are you more attached to your property, and have you less disinterestedness than those heathens who knew not the true God? Have you less respect for your holy religion? Less loyalty and less love for your country, your customs, your laws, and your government! Do you less cherish your wives and tender infants? Do you entertain less horror to the tyranny and slavery with which you are threatened by the common enemy, as soon as he shall have subjugated your brethren, which heaven forbid? Would you prefer keeping your riches entire in order that the booty may be so much more agreeable and acceptable to his avarice rather than sacrifice a part of them to so noble objects; and save the remainder at so little cost, preserve from danger your mother country, and rescue from captivity your liege king, who mounted the throne after the most eminent proofs of his virtue and heroism, which he has given by his readiness to mount the scaffold under the enormous infamy of passing for a regicide and parricide, with a view and for the purpose only of rendering you happy, by producing the dismissal of a perfidious traitor, and despotical favorite. Pardon me if I offend your delicacy, your generosity, your well proved loyalty and your holy ambition of true glory. My imagination, disconcerted by so fatal suppositions, scarcely permits me to articulate the words, and much less enables me to presume their truth. I am convinced that you will do much more than that which I demand. I will know your virtues, and you are not ignorant how high I estimate them, and which are the sentiments of my heart as regards you and every one amongst you.—Yes, this is the epocha at which America and her illustrious sons, fired by the noble blood of Spain, which runs through their veins, will develop the greatness of their souls and acquire as much glory as was lately acquired by the heroic inhabitants of Buenos Ayres, and still so much more brilliant, as moral virtues exceed the sanguinary triumphs of Mars. The benefits which you will produce on this occasion will be common to all Spaniards, to all the nations of Europe and to yourselves; but the sweet pleasure of hearing their blessing, which will resound in succeeding generations, will be the peculiar reward of your own beneficence, the highest reward that can be bestowed by man, a reward infinitely preferable to all equivocal distinctions and titles, granted by Princes—not always to virtue, but oftentimes to vice and corruption.

I hastened to issue this Proclamation, that you might at once be acquainted with the great object which must occupy the attention and attract the heart of every Spaniard, indeed of every friend to man. But at the same time I do most earnestly recommend to you, a firm reliance in Divine Providence, which provides a remedy for every evil, in virtue, fortitude and magnanimity, at no period more requisite than on this occasion; suffering with prudence, moderation and docility, that you may retain the anxiety of your tem-

per; avoid all riot and disorder, and refrain from offering any insult or vexation to the peaceful, laborious, and useful Frenchmen, the cultivators of our soil, and our friends, who abhorring the scenes daily presented to their view, by the most sanguinary and most disgraceful revolution that ever stained the leaves of history, sought for and met in your circle, the sacred asylum ever offered by brotherly hospitality—observing nevertheless, that in case there should be any amongst them whose presence be found dangerous or obnoxious, be or they shall be suffered in peace to depart from this island, taking the remainder under the protection of Spanish humanity, and of the strong arm of justice, which is ready to be exerted with every severity against those who may offend them either by word or deed. If you listen to the paternal advice I give, and carefully observe it, I do most confidently trust in the infinite goodness of the Most High, in your loyalty and heroism, that you will soon perceive the Aurora of Tranquility, of Commerce, of Prosperity and Glory, emanating more splendid and brilliant for you and your succeeding generations.

MARQUIS DE SOMERUELOS.

Havana, 17th July, 1808.

BY THE COMMANDANT GENERAL
OF MARINE, AT HAVANA.

Soldiers & Mariners!

The Provinces of Spain have united for the purpose of asserting the rights of their Sovereign and freeing themselves from the oppression of the Tyrant of Europe; their reasons are as public as they are just; their Proclamations, as well as the Manifestoes of the Tyrant himself, detail them; from this day forward we will fight and shed our blood to the last drop, for the liberty of our Sovereign and that of the Mother-Country; in defence of our religion, and of our own honour. In a cause so visibly just, what may not be achieved by those who have hitherto spontaneously bled for honour in blind obedience to their Sovereign and their Representatives? Spain swears not to lay down her arms, until her Sovereign shall be free, and the outrages against the nation be revenged! We will also swear it, and in the event, which must not and cannot be expected, that every Spaniard should fall in the Mother-Country, yet Spain will not cease to exist—This is Spain, we are Spaniards like themselves, and here Ferdinand the VIIth and his successors will reign. The inhabitants of this island cannot permit us to entertain a doubt on the subject; the enthusiasm with which they have proclaimed him, warrant us in this conclusion: Let us assist them therefore in preserving this precious Territory for our Sovereign, if the tyrant should attempt to invade it. Let us unite our efforts to succour our Mother-Country, although we at present are deprived of the honour of defending it; yet let us not forget, that the Frenchmen inhabiting this island, are not subjects of Napoleon I.—they are not of the number of those who have vilely submitted to dishonor their country, by serving as mercenary assassins to a foreigner—but with abhorrence of the excesses they had seen committed, not wishing to live under his iron yoke, they have come to live under the mild and pacific government of Spain.

VILLAVENCIO.

Havana, the 21st July, 1808.

Disturbances in England!

From the London Traveller of May 37.

In another part of our paper we have given the substance of some letters received yesterday from Manchester, relating to the proceedings of the distressed manufacturers in that town and neighbourhood, in consequence of the refusal of parliament to entertain a bill for fixing a minimum for their weekly labor. We are sorry to state that it has been found necessary to have recourse to strong measures to dissolve the meetings which took place among this unhappy class of the people. The following letter, which we received this morning from a correspondent, upon whose accuracy we can place perfect reliance, contains an account of what occurred at Manchester on Wednesday. The cotton Weavers seem to have adopted a very erroneous idea of the feeling of parliament with respect to their case. We were present at the short discussion which took place on the subject on Friday last, and we can assert that it was from motives of the purest compassion for them that leave was not given to bring in the bill.—There was but one opi-

nion in the house respecting it, and it was this, that it would increase rather than remove the distresses of the manufacturers, that it might do infinite mischief and no possible good:—

MANCHESTER, Wednesday Evening.

Your London papers will no doubt teem with dreadful accounts of the riots at Manchester; but having been accidentally both an eye and an ear witness of what has unfortunately taken place here, I send you a few hasty lines.

A number of the journeymen weavers assembled yesterday, not in a riotous or tumultuous manner, but in a decent orderly style, requesting to have their grievances redressed, and their wages raised. Some thousand attended on the ground called St. George's Fields, and appointed delegates to wait upon the principal manufacturers, humbly desiring an immediate interview. The magistrates and several respectable gentlemen sent to remonstrate with the poor emaciated and distressed objects, requesting them to disperse; but finding every thing they said was of no avail, they were under the painful necessity of resorting to the reading of the Riot Act, and sending the constable and military among them, who soon cleared the ground; but finding the inhabitants were considerably alarmed, the streets were patrolled all Tuesday night, and every thing remained pretty quiet.

This morning about ten o'clock, my curiosity was attracted, by seeing some hundreds of weavers marching in a most orderly manner into Manchester, to join several thousands of others of the same calling, who had again assembled in St. George's Field (which is close to the edge of town.) A regular square was formed, and the members of the respective committees stationed themselves in the centre. They then dispatched delegates to commune with the Boroughreeve and the principal officers of the town, who were requested to use their influence with the most eminent manufacturers to raise their wages. One of the delegates soon returned, and went round the square, attended by the committee, and addressing the poor half famished but patient auditors, informed them that he had seen the Boroughreeve, that he was friendly to their cause, and sympathised with them in their present distress which he was sorry he could not alleviate; that he had taken the names and places of abode of their delegates, who were responsible for the conduct and behavior of their fellow sufferers. The delegate then exhorted them to be firm in the cause they had undertaken to support, and strongly enjoined them to behave peaceably and orderly.

About three o'clock P. M. I again went to the field, attended by a friend, and was surprised to see the square, which I had just for as all the weavers had struck their work, in the neighbouring towns, I am of opinion that there were at least from ten to fifteen thousand people. Loud, indeed, were the murmurs of the poor wretches, but not the least indication was there of a riot.

Many baskets of bread, with some ale, and several cans of buttermilk, were distributed among the multitude, and their sorrowful and piteous tales of distress quite unmixed me, as also several other sympathetic spectators. About half past three o'clock the Boroughreeve, accompanied by another gentleman on horseback, entered the (hollow) square, and the poor creatures gave a patient hearing to them; he advised them to disperse, but the general cry was—"We have nothing to eat; and unless our wages are raised, we might as well play and starve, as work and be famished." I listened attentively, and heard tales of the most distressing scenes that ever human eye was witness to; and I am sorry to say, that the military were obliged to interfere for the second time, and I apprehend that the consequences will be dreadful, as I saw them fire, and observed several wounded wretches carried into the infirmary. The shops and houses are all shut up in this quarter, and the riflemen and Manchester volunteers, &c. &c. are now marching to the scene of action, and I find the streets are to be again patrolled.—The peaceable inhabitants are most dreadfully alarmed.

Ten P. M.—I have just seen a poor old man's widow, who is left with five children. Her husband was shot in an entry; and I find that several of the multitude have been taken to goal. An Apothecary with whom I conversed, has been to dress the wounds of many who were badly hurt by the swords and bayonet of the soldiery.

P. S. After the military were assembled, I saw a gentleman enter the square on horse-