

## SPANISH ROYALTY AT HOME.

A Personal Interview With King Alfonso the Thirteenth and the Queen Regent, Maria Christina, in One of the Private Apartments of the Palacio Real at Madrid—Up-to-Date Gossip Concerning the Reigning Family.

Special Correspondence.

Madrid, Spain, June 6, 1900.—Alas for that "Republican simplicity" which is believed to be an inalienable characteristic of the sons of Gile Samuel! Away down deep in his heart, everybody is more or less of a toady to exalted station and the independent American is not yet born whose head does not involuntarily bend lower in the presence of one that wears a crown. With the spirit of our Puritan ancestors strong within us, and the sustaining reflection that our side did not represent the "under dog" in the late unpleasantness, we expected to greet the queen regent and the young king of Spain very much as we would any other worthy lady and her son who had been so kind as to grant us an interview at our own solicitation. But as the hour approached we were conscious of considerable disturbance of the nerve-centers and strange thrills chasing each other up and down our spinal columns—increasing as we traversed the many magnificent rooms of the palace and preceded by a gorgeous functionary in livery of scarlet and gold, between statuesque rows of chamberlains and other court officials, to the private apartment wherein their majesties were pleased to receive us.

cause just now in its summer clothes—

MARBLE FLOORS.

rattan furniture and long, undraped windows looking toward the Guadarrama mountains. It seemed to me at least a mile, but was probably not more than fifty feet, from the entrance to the farther end, where a tall and stately lady in a black lace gown sat upon a rattan couch between two girls, a young man standing behind her and a dozen staring ladies-in-waiting arrayed in all the colors of the rainbow, scattered around the room. It was these latter comparatively unimportant personages, supposed to represent the foremost families of Spain, who caused us the most embarrassment—partly because of the marked unfriendliness of their gaze, and also from an irresistible impulse on our part to smile at their absurd assumption of "airs," each squatted on the edge of her chair in the ungraceful attitude which Spanish women always assume when of their feet. The scarlet and gold clore-robes shouted our names on the threshold—or rather a Spanish rendering of the same which we should never have recognized elsewhere, again in the exact center of the room, and yet again when within a foot or two of the rattan throne pro tem, while all the ladies-in-waiting, staring if possible more intently and hostilely than before, wriggled around in their chairs to follow our every movement. The queen regent did not rise but extended her hand with a charming smile, while the boyish but extremely dignified Alfonso XIII came forward a step or two with cordial greeting, but did not offer his hand, and the young princesses merely showed their pretty teeth in open-mouthed, good natured curiosity.

ty. It was all over in fifteen minutes—the formal phrases on both sides that courtesy demanded, followed by a few kindly impromptu sentences, such as women of nearly the same age, with the common interest of motherhood and not unfavorably impressed with one another, would naturally exchange. At first the queen regarded us intently, with the look of one accustomed to study men and women, as others read books, and that the result of her scrutiny was not displeasing, may be inferred from the fact that she prolonged the interview and suggested to her son that we be

GIVEN THE FREEDOM

of the city, so to speak, in a special pass to parts of the palace and various houses of the government that are usually closed to strangers. He gave a quiet order to a chamberlain; and later we were presented with a large, square card, bearing the royal crown and monogram, above a few lines written by the king's private secretary—which, by the way, will be a very useful open sesame on our subsequent travels in Spain, as well as the treasured souvenir of a rare experience.

At parting the queen again gave us each her hand with frank cordiality, the young princesses followed the maternal example, and even Alfonso XIII—who doubtless feels his royal dignity a good deal more in his fifteenth year than he will after actually reigning a quarter of a century—condescended to "shake" us, each in turn, literally as well as in slangy figure of speech, while all the haughty ladies of the court, taking the cue from their betters, rose to their feet as one woman, inclined their heads in profound obeisance and followed us with their eyes to the very door, like so many well-executed figures in the Eden Museum. Of course, as everybody knows, it is contrary to all rules of etiquette to turn one's back upon royalty under any circumstances, whatever. If you have ever tried to go backwards out of a very long apartment, over a slippery marble floor, hampered by the nasty little train to your gown now in vogue, which is not quite long enough to tuck under the arm, you may have some idea of the graceful ease with which we crawled-fished out of the presence.

According to the laws of Spain, the monarch becomes of age and succeeds to full power when he completes his eighteenth year; therefore, for three years more, Donna Maria Christina remains the real ruler of Spain—as much as any sovereign is allowed by her ministers to rule. As to personal appearance, her most generous friends

have never called her half-woman, as far as features go, but she has a very tall, commanding figure, an abundance of dark hair, slightly tinged with gray, beautiful brown eyes with an expression of sadness and anxiety in their long to be remembered, and occasionally a smile of singular sweetness illuminates her otherwise plain face. Every-bary speaks in praise of

HER MANY VIRTUES.

though without affecting, as she is Austrian born. She is extremely pious, having been an abbess of a noble religious order at Prague, before her marriage to the widowed King Alfonso XII, for which she received a special license from the pope. His holiness annually bestows the "Golden Rose" upon some lady who shines pre-eminently by reason of great virtue and life, and this supreme honor was bestowed upon the queen regent some years ago. With her austere virtues, she unites a charming simplicity of manner, domestic tastes, and that indefinable quality which is rarer and more potent than genius, shown on our side of the water as "horse sense." She is a very well-read woman, and a good conversationalist, wielding a powerful influence over friends and counselors who she chooses to exert it. As a musician she particularly excels, far beyond the average amateur. In the select musicales that frequently occur in the royal palace, it is said that she not only criticizes the efforts of the best performers in the land, but often takes the player's place herself, in order to show how some difficult passage should be rendered. It is owing to her simple tastes that the strictness of Spanish etiquette at court has been pleasantly relaxed, and innovation not altogether pleasing to the proud nobles and high-born of the old regime, who insist upon the rigidity of the ancient exclusiveness, which permitted only the highest in the land to approach the reigning family by bearded knees. Taken all around, Queen Maria Christina's lot is not an enviable one. Married for reasons of state, in which mere sentiment did no figure at all, she is a mediocre young lady, somewhat younger than herself, whose chief interest in life seemed to be centered in bull-fights and ladies of light morals—she found herself in

WITH UNBROKEN HOPE

and spirit during the darkest hours. It is universally conceded that her great tact alone saved the kingdom from an entire debacle when Spanish fleets were destroyed by a stronger enemy and one after another of her most trusted generals were compelled to yield to American commanders; while at the same time Spain was menaced by foreign invaders and by the fanatic populace which could not understand the defeats of their soldiers.

Alfonso XIII, the youngest king in Europe, was born just six months after the unexpected death of his father, meaning his sister, the Princess Maria de las Mercedes, was the actual queen, though under six years of age. At the birth of her brother she became an "ex," with the title of princess of the Asturias, (the Spanish equivalent to the title of prince of Wales), but before to the throne in the event of Alfonso's death, without male issue. As all the world knows, the queen regent has devoted her life to her boy, and the young king is in turn passionately attached to her and his sisters. Though rather slight in build for one so tall, he is an athlete in every sense of the word, with muscles of iron and a will as strong. He is an admirable horseman,

TRAGIC POSITION

when Alfonso XII suddenly passed to his reward, whatever that might have been, in November of '85, young as he was, her royal husband had outlived his brief hour of popularity, and the country was on the verge of revolution

—with that tireless Jack-in-the-box, Don Carlos, the Pretender, ready to pop up and seize the throne on slightest pretext. But death at twenty-eight is expiation enough for the follies of wild-out sowing, and Spain remembered only the dead king's youth, while regretting its brilliant promise all unfulfilled. Notwithstanding the deep-rooted national antipathy to everything foreign, Spanish chivalry awoke toward the widowed queen, then about to become a mother, as she knelt beside her husband's coffin. And the former Austrian archduchess sustained herself wonderfully well in a most trying situation, knowing that only pity tolerated her. The throne had to be protected for her children, and therefore it was necessary to sever all intercourse with the parental relatives, in order not to excite suspicion that she was influenced by Vienna or Berlin, either of which would have been fatal. There were wheels within wheels to be considered and opposing factions to be placated; yet she has managed with such tact and discretion that conservatives, liberals, socialists and possibilists have found no serious flaw in her reign. Whatever tears she may have shed in the privacy of her chamber, when appealing to the Almighty for help for her son, she has always presented a calm, firm front in public.

THE NOBLE FAMILIES of Spain. He is a great reader and student, having already perfectly mastered four languages besides his own, among them English, most difficult of all, which he speaks without the slightest accent. This is due to the two English governesses yet employed at a high salary in the palace, one of whom had charge of the little king's education up to his eleventh year, when his women attendants gave place to a controller, tutors, equerries and valets. The lad of fifteen now maintains his own household, in a large and splendid suite of apartments in the Palacio Real of Madrid. He is one of the richest young men in the world, his state allowance being about one and a half million dollars a year, besides an almost incomputable private fortune and palaces, castles and villas galore to live in, rent free. The wise queen regent does not allow any waste, and the home life of the Spanish court is very frugal and simple, all the savings of the enormous income being hoarded against the "rainy day," possible even to royalty, as history has often shown. You will be surprised to learn that the queen and her children rise earlier than most middle-class American families—at 6 a. m., winter and summer. At 8 o'clock breakfast is served, and lunch, at 1 p. m., the hours between occupied by the king and his sisters in study and open air exercise. After lunch follows another short course of study, when mother and children take a drive on pleasant days. Dinner is at 8 o'clock, but until last year the king took

HIS LAST MEAL of the day at 5, and retired at 8. To these judicious and unalterable rules of his mother, the boy no doubt owes his development from a sickly infant to the sturdy youth he now is with every reasonable prospect of long life before him.

If the queen has a fault, it is as a stickler for the dignity of her beloved son. From earliest infancy he has always been treated with all the cere-

monious accorded to full-fledged, married majesty. While yet in diapers, no one might approach him, even to change those indispensable articles, without extreme deference. Since he has now arrived at man's estate, he has voluntarily dispensed with much of this exaggerated ceremonial, but will never permit anything approaching familiarity even among his closest friends. There is a curious dignity in all his actions, even when hanging head down, in the royal gymnasium. Soon as he is to understand anything, his mother took him to all state functions and demanded for him the same homage that would be accorded a grown-up king. On his tenth birthday he received with great pomp all the foreign ambassadors connected with his court, and his gracious, affable, and at the same time most stately manner might have been copied with profit by many a gray-haired sovereign. It is related to the discomfort of his secretary, one Count de Morphi (an Irishman, whose father's name was plain Patrick Murphy), that his too-ready tongue has received many royal set-backs. For example, when the king was about seven years old, he was confined to his room several days with a severe cold. On his first appearance at breakfast, the secretary hailed him with the cheery words: "Good morning, Alfonso; I rejoice to see you better." Whereupon the fresh little lad stiffened his backbone and with his haughtiest manner replied in piping treble: "I am Alfonso to my family only; to you I am the king."

FANNIE B. WARD.

THE APPETITE OF A GOAT Is envied by all whose Stomach and Liver are out of order. But such should know that Dr. King's New Life Pills, give a splendid appetite, sound digestion and a regular bodily habit that insures perfect health and great energy. Only 25c at Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept.

SAY "SCAT!" and you will have an idea how quickly our number can be multiplied by another with

THE "NEWS" CALCULATING PENCIL. Most useful educational device out. Helps those who are slow at figures to become quick and accurate. A valuable article which can be obtained at the "News" office or any of its agencies for 25 cents.

# The Greatest Slaughter We Have Yet Made!

THE LAST WEEK AND BEST WEEK OF OUR FINAL CLEARING SALE.

Tomorrow we make a new Price Record for all America—this week's Bargain Sale promises to be a HOT ONE—for never in all the years of our existence have we made such terrific SACRIFICES on Seasonable Merchandise. Throughout the STORE in every DEPARTMENT, every SINGLE ARTICLE has been cut and slashed in price. Read on—you will be amazed at the prices, and wonder how we do it. Again we absolutely prove and again we emphatically insist on the Recognition of the Fact that OURS is the

## GENUINE MID-SUMMER CLEARING SALE!

### SILKS AND DRESS GOODS.

A CLEAN SWEEP! That's what is desired, and in order to do it prices are unmercifully cut for this the last week of our Final Clearance Sale.

In Taffeta finish Jay, Silks, full line of colors as long as this number last, value 60c a yard, at per 37½c  
24 in Black Satin Duchesse—all silk, soft and lustrous, value \$1.25, only 120 yards left, at per 75c  
Extra fine qualities Crystal Silks in Street and Evening colors, value \$1.25, at per 75c  
UP TO \$2.00 FANCY  
SILKS—88c A YARD.

### SHOES AT TAKING PRICES.

Every Shoe in our Store positively reduced in price this week. All our SUMMER SHOES, OXFORDS and SLIPPERS Must be Sold This Week.

Children's Kid Button Shoes, sizes 5 to 8, worth 55c  
Children's Kid Button and Lace Shoes, sizes 5 to 8, worth 89c  
Misses' Kid Button and Lace Shoes, sizes 8 to 11, worth 89c  
Misses' Kid Button and Lace Shoes, sizes 11 to 2, worth 98c  
Boys' Satin Calf Lace Shoes, warranted, sizes 11 to 2, worth \$1.38  
Boys' Satin Calf Lace Shoes, warranted, sizes 2 to 6, worth \$1.58  
Ladies' Oxford, black and tan, gold, worth \$2.50  
LADIES' STRAP SLIPPERS, worth \$1.35  
Ladies' Button and Lace Shoes, worth \$2.50  
Ladies' Low Shoes, elastic side and elastic front, worth \$1.58  
WHITTEMORE'S GILT EDGE AND OTHER BRANDS SHOE POLISH, worth 25c  
Balance of our Misses' and Children's Stock of Slippers at Less than Cost to Close.

### Second Week of Our GREAT JULY CLEARING SALE of ALL WHITE GOODS.

We had big crowds all last week and there'll be greater crowds this week, for the genuine reductions on reliable wash goods will do the business. These values are as plain to be seen as the figures on a greenback.

84c White Checked Nainsocks, to be closed out, per yard 44c  
12½c White India Linon—40 inch wide—to be closed out, per yard 7½c  
16½c White Apron Lawns—40 inch wide—to be closed out, per yard 8½c  
16½c White Checked Dimities—to be closed out, per yard 8½c  
16c White Dotted Swiss—to be closed out, per yard 9c  
25c White Pique—to be closed out, per yard 11½c  
30c White Embroidered Pique—to be closed out, per yard 14c  
30c White Mercerized Madras—to be closed out, per yard 15c  
30c White Dotted Swiss—reduced to, per yard 16½c  
A new line of White Wash Chiffons, and White Swisses Reduced in Proportion.

J. Auerbach & Bro.

Final Clearing Sale Bargain in Colored Underskirts With deep accordion plaited ruffle, value \$2.00, assorted colors, this week only 99c	Splendid Value in White Waists. Beautiful insertion trimmed front soft cuffs. Value, \$2.25, this week, all sizes, only \$1.25	White Duck Skirts, Value 90c, this Week Special for 45c
A Few Ladies' Suits In large sizes, only 58, 40, 42 bust, in black serge and chev- lot, at less than ¼ price for \$7.50 and... \$10.00	Entire Stock of White Pique Dress Skirts all in plain White in styles nobby styles, all this season's newest effects at Great Reductions during this Last Week of our Clearing sale.	Grass Linen Shirt Waists Beautiful styles, handsomely embroidered and trimmed. Value, \$6.00, for \$3.50
Pure White Linen Shirt Waists. Latest style, a regular \$3.00 Waist. This week, only \$1.65	Great Bargains in White Waists. To close we offered about 50 doz. white Waists assorted styles, at greatly reduced prices, for 75c and... \$1.00	Colored Dimity Shirt Waists. New arrivals, best makes, at Special Low Prices, only 50c, 75c...

### Our Men's and Boys' Furnishing Goods Dept.

Is offering for the Final Wind-up of all Summer Underwear and Shirts at Prices Way Below Manufacturer's Cost—Just to clean up our entire stock.

Men's Golf Shirts. Many of them in broken sizes, worth \$1.50 and \$1.25. Just to clean up all odd lots this week 66c	Boys' Balbriggan Underwear. Eccu sells regular at 35c the garment, double seat in the drawers, all covered seams, French collar, for boys from 9 to 16 years of age—final clean up price, the garment 20c	Children's Blouse Waists. Indigo blue imported percales, regular 40c value, just to clean up the lot... 39c
Men's Golf and Negligee Shirts. All up-to-date patterns, well made, in percale and muslin cloths, silk stripes, worth 75c and 85c 43c	Women's Handkerchief Special. 60 doz. (slightly soiled) embroidered or lace bordered Handkerchiefs, many pretty designs in 15c and 20c grades to close out at 8 1-3c EACH.	LADIES' LINEN COLLARS In all the popular styles, best 15c quality for this week's sale at 10c EACH.

### This is the Last Week of Our Great Wash Goods Sale.

We promise lively times in this department this week. Hot weather and the last end of the season do not retard activity here. Respond the public will and must to such economy and opportunity as set forth in this announcement. Not many left, but those we have will quickly be disposed of at Reductions like these—Every item should be read, lest some good fortune escape—

500 yards of yard-wide Percales—value 12½c. Every yard will be sold this week at per yard 5c  
1,500 yards fine Zephyr Gingham, worth 12½c. Every yard will be sold this week at per yard 5½c  
600 yards Figured Batiste Lawn—in the Japanese new Blues—worth 15c. Every yard will be sold this week at per yard 6½c  
700 yards Crash Skirtings—worth 15c. Every yard will be sold this week at per yard 7½c

### MORE NEWS FROM OUR GREAT JULY CLEARING SALE OF Lace Curtains and Table Linens.

Still bigger values for the second week of our Greatest of All Mid-Summer Clearing Sales. The merits of the Bargains are so great they cannot be realized until seen.

6,000 Extra Size Turkish Towels, value 30c. Every one will be sold this week at, each 17½c  
400 yards Red Bordered Satin Table Damask, value 50c every yard, will be sold this week 29c  
500 yards of the heaviest German Dica Pattern Table Linen—value 80c every yard, will be sold this week 58c  
75 White Crochet Bed Spreads—value \$1.25—every one will be sold this week at each 82c

### THE JULY CLEARANCE SALE OF Ladies' Gloves and Mitts.

A Few Extraordinary Offerings for this Second Week of the Great Sale.

25-doz. Black pure Silk mitts, a splendid 25c grade 15c  
12-doz. Extra quality Black, heavy pure Silk Mitts, the best 50c grade, to close out at 25c  
16-doz. Black and Colored fine two-clasp Taffeta Silk Gloves in all sizes a 50c grade at 25c  
Ladies' White or Cream Taffeta Silk Gloves, best 50c grade, to close out at 25c  
Black and White pure Silk 2-clasp Gloves, all sizes, our 75c grade for this closing sale at 50c  
Only 26-doz. more of those fine \$1.50 grade, washable Chamolli Gloves in White, Natural or Pearl, every pair warranted, to close out this week, all sizes, at a pair 59c  
\$1.25 grade, fine Kid Gloves in Black and White and Light Colors, every pair warranted, and fitted to the hand, all sizes, to close out at 90c  
60-doz. fine pure Silk Mitts in Black and White and Light Colors in ELBOW and SHOULDER LENGTHS, these are regular 75c, \$1.00 and \$1.25 grades, to close out at the uniform 25c price of.