

Bonaparte, who had a poor navy, saw that England in the war might wrest Louisiana from him and to avert that loss, and to get a little money, which France needed to carry on her war, he sold the province to the United States for \$15,000,000.

The Spain of Charles III had a vague, fear that the example of a great free nation in the new world, independent of foreign influences and ideas, and at liberty to work out its own destiny in its own way, would be a menace to Spanish dominion on this continent. This fear soon transmitted itself into fact. On September 15, 1810, a revolt headed by Hidalgo Costilla broke out in a little Mexican village. That is a fateful date in the history of Spain. It marked the beginning of the end of Spanish rule in North America.

A few months earlier that this the crack of doom sounded for Spain in South America. On New Year's day in 1810 a rising occurred in Buenos Ayres, the Spanish governor was driven out and that colony declared itself independent. Then the fires of revolution were kindled in almost every Spanish dependency on the hemisphere. The blaze in the next few years swept along the two oceans and extended from the City of Mexico to Cape Horn. Varying fortunes beset the insurgents. In some places Spain made a powerful struggle to save its dominion, prolonging the contest for several years. In others Spain was beaten quickly. In all of them she was beaten eventually. She was utterly and eternally driven from the new world, except in Cuba, Porto Rico and a few other islands, which were too insignificant then to attract much attention from the revolutionary spirits of the time. Some of the new Spanish-American nations passed through several governmental transitions before they took the shape which they have had in our day. All of them eventually became republics on the model, theoretically at least, of their great northern neighbor. That neighbor, whose example excited them to strike for freedom, was the first among the great powers of the world to recognize their independence after independence was physically gained and to welcome them into the family of nations. Thus Spain, even if the Cuban rebellions had never taken place, would have had a profound and eternal hatred for the United States.

Under the rule of what monarch did Spain lose its American empire? Under that of Ferdinand VII. The history of this prince has a peculiar interest for Americans. As already mentioned, it was during his reign, which began in 1808, and nominally extended to 1833, that Spain lost her colonies on this continent. It was in 1823, after the United States had recognized the independence of all of them, that the holy alliance—Russia, Austria, Prussia and France—entered into the plot to attack these new nations, and restore them to Ferdinand, or perhaps to appropriate some of them themselves for their trouble, which called out from President Monroe, in his annual message to Congress in December of that year, the warning to Europe to keep its hands off this continent, which gives Monroe a secure place in history. It was this monarch who revoked the salic law, thus putting females in the line of succession, giving his daughter Isabella II the crown, and conferring the title on which that queen held power. This was the means of bringing her son (after the revolutionary transition of 1868-1847), Alfonso XII, and his son, the present 12-year-old king, to the throne.

Like Gil Blas, Ferdinand was a football of fortune, but unlike Le Sage's hero, he learned nothing from his reverses. He is one of the most despica-

ble characters in history. He betrayed his father, Charles IV, to Bonaparte, and that potentate imprisoned both of them and put his brother Joseph on the Spanish throne. When calamity came to Bonaparte, Ferdinand was restored to power. But under restraint by the Liberals among his subjects, who compelled him to grant a constitution, he was restored to autocratic sway by a French army which invaded Spain by order of the holy alliance in 1823, and was, during the last years of his life, under the control of his fourth wife, Maria Christina of Naples, a sort of Spanish Messalina, who induced him to revoke the salic law, and thus started the civil wars which raged in Spain sporadically between the Carlists and the ruling house from 1838 until 1876. Ferdinand was as imbecile as Philip III, as treacherous as the second Philip, and as vindictive as Pedro the Cruel. Only two monarchs of any ability and character are found in the long list of rulers of the Spanish branch of the house of Bourbon Philip II, and Philip III, however, were of the Tampsburg house). Those of Ferdinand's grandfather, Charles III, and Ferdinand's grandson, Alfonso XII.

Ferdinand's tumultuous reign was the beginning of a chain of uprisings and revolutions which have had no parallel in any European nation in this century, except in its neighbor on the other side of the Pyrenees. From 1808 onward Spain's political regime has been government by cataclysm. That country has almost as many lightning political transformations as France. Joseph Bonaparte displaced Ferdinand in 1808. Ferdinand was restored in 1814, but he was virtually dethroned subsequently by his own subjects, and was put back in power by the holy alliance in 1823. At his death in 1833, his three-year-old daughter, Isabella II, went to the throne through the regency of her mother, Maria Christina of Naples. Carlos, her father's brother, who would have been heir to the throne under the salic law which had been revoked by Ferdinand in her favor, raised a rebellion against her, and the series of unsuccessful Carlist wars, which have ravaged Spain several times since, began. Isabella's political excesses and immoralities provoked a revolution in 1868, in which she was driven out, and she has resided in Paris ever since. A provisional government in various shapes, managed affairs from 1868 to 1870, when the crown was given to Amadeus of Italy, a younger brother of the present King Humbert of that country, but Amadeus, tiring of his turbulent subjects, and fearing assassination, abdicated in 1873. Then a provisional regime by the cortes, a republic under Castelar and a dictatorship through Serrano followed in quick succession, when, in the beginning of 1875, Isabella's seventeen-year-old son was called to the throne as Alfonso XII. At his death in 1885 his infant daughter was crowned, and a few months later she was superseded by the present king, Alfonso XIII, born after his death, but who, as a male, took precedence of his elder sister, actual power in both cases being held by the mother, Maria Christina, as regent.

What are names of Spain's political parties? Political parties and party government, in the sense in which these terms are understood in Great Britain and the United States, are unknown in Spain. In Isabella's time, from 1833 to 1868, as in that of her father, Ferdinand, there were Absolutists and Liberals. Since Isabella's days the party names have been Conservatives and Liberals. But the lines between these parties are not closely drawn, and each is split up into subdivisions and groups, as in Germany and France; but the boundaries between them are not so well marked

as in those two countries. A Republican party came up into prominence in 1868, after Isabella's overthrow, and theoretically it was in the ascendant during the republic of 1873, but it shrunk in importance afterward. There has been a Carlist party since 1833, but this and the Republican party has receded close to the vanishing point in recent years, though both are liable to loom up in prominence if the present dynasty is overthrown.

Personal leadership and official pressure count for more than political principal in Spain's party contests, and some of the leaders carry opportunism to lengths undreamed of even by a Ferry or a Freycinet in France. Sagasta, the present premier, has been, at one time and another in the past forty years, on two sides of almost every great question which has that many sides, and his late rival, Canovas, also boxed the political compass, but not quite to this extent. The result of the election for the cortes, or congress, is determined beforehand, the premier of the day, whatever his partisan designation, carrying the election held during his sway. This has been the rule ever since the establishment of the present constitution of 1876. The premier allots a certain trifling number of seats to the Republicans and the Carlists, gives a much larger number to the big party of the opposition, but keeps a great majority for his own side. Ruptures between leaders of the same party in the ministry, failures of the ministry to carry out its avowed policy, and other causes, force changes of premiers and sometimes dissolutions of the cortes and new elections. In these elections the premier's side wins, and thus there may be frequent swings in the partisan pendulum without any material change in the political sentiment of the people.—Charles H. Harvey, in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

#### AN HISTORIC FLAG DECAYING.

Why the government has not taken better care of the silk flag which hung over President Lincoln's box in Ford's theater that fateful April night in 1865—the flag over which the assassin tripped, causing him to sprain his ankle—is an official enigma. All the Lincoln relics have been cared for in a special museum in Washington, but this flag, while in the hands of the government, was given over to the care of the treasury department. No special attempt has been made to preserve the silk, and it is likely soon to decay and disappear. The flag has a history of its own. When Jubal Early made his raid in 1864 around Washington, the male employes of the treasury department organized to aid in defending the capital. The women employes could not fight, but they made a silk flag and gave it to the treasury guard. Two nights before the assassination the treasury guard gave an entertainment in Ford's theater, and the flag was used in the decoration of the boxes. It looked so pretty that the manager of the theater asked that it remain there a couple of days, as on the night of the 4th the President was to be present at the play. After the shooting Booth jumped from the box to the stage. His spur caught in the flag, and he was thrown violently to the floor of the stage. The flag still has the rent in it caused by the spur. The treasury people take as good care of the flag as they can, but they are unacquainted with the scientific way to do it. The heat of the building is causing the flag to decay rapidly.—New York Press.

Theodore J. Lynde, United States marshal for Montana, died at Butte, Sunday, after a week's illness. He was appointed two months ago.