

STORY OF SPAIN AND HER PEOPLE.

The Growth and Decay of the Greatest Nation in the History of the World—The Land that Encouraged the Discovery of America Now the Bitter Enemy of the New Country—Rebellion in the Tottering Empire that Threatens its Downfall—Fortifications of the Country and Characteristics of the People.

Founded on the ruins of ancient Rome and peopled by the ruggedest races of the middle ages, Spain easily conquered the old world and discovered and overran the new world. Under the rule of Charles I of Spain, better known in history as Charles V of Germany, the Spanish empire included the whole Iberian peninsula, the Balearic islands, Roussillon and Cerdagne north of the Pyrenees, the island of Sardinia, Sicily, Naples and Milan, Franche-Comte, Holland and Belgium and practically Austria, Bohemia, Hungary and Transylvania. In Africa it held the vast domain which Portuguese adventurers had seized, and in Asia the Philippine archipelago. In North America Spanish territory included everything south of Savannah on the east and San Francisco on the west, together with Mexico, Central America and the West Indies. Spain dominated all South America, including Brazil, which was a Portuguese

province of the new world 2,000 tons of gold and 6,000 tons of silver crossed the ocean to be squandered in Spain. Penniless noblemen borrowed money to pay their passage to America and returned millionaires. Common soldiers came back to the mother country with processions of slaves. A certain Spanish soldier was married in Barcelona to the daughter of a nobleman and celebrated the occasion by giving away in alms \$600,000 in gold and silver. Another returned Spaniard stood at a window in his house at Madrid and threw into the street, a handful at a time, two barrels of silver coins for the fun of seeing the rabble scramble for the money. National extravagance kept pace with individual profligacy, and legitimate business was lost sight of in speculation. Spain ruled the most of the world and snubbed the rest of it. Upon her strength was founded the national pride which proved her national weakness.

How Ruin Came. At her zenith Spain seemed to possess invincible power. Only one nation dared to challenge it. That nation was England. Spain's argosies were successfully attacked in the south seas. Then came the destruction of the great armada. The charm was broken. Spain started on the downward path and never stopped. Foes developed without and within. Under Ferdinand and Isabella began the ruin of the country which their successors have completed. They drove the Jews and the Moors out of Spain. It is that fact in Spanish history which accounts for the nation's decadence. The Jew and the Moor were traders and artisans. They constituted the middle class, and they were the people which the fanaticism of Isabella and the dark zeal of Torquemada banished from Spanish soil. When they were gone, the fires of the inquisition were lighted for the thinkers, and free thought was allowed no foothold under the cross of Castile. When the philosopher, the scientist, the inventor, had gone, there remained only the soldier and the peasant. From the days of Ferdinand to the days of Weyler it has been the policy of Spain to terrorize her subjects into submission by torture and butchery. From first to last this policy has been a failure.

Early in the sixteenth century the Netherlands revolted and formed the United Provinces. The sturdy Dutchmen destroyed what remnants remained of the Spanish navy, and in 1648, at Roroor, the Spanish infantry, hitherto invincible, was beaten and forever broken. Portugal and her vast possessions in three continents were lost in 1640. Naples revolted in 1648 under Masaniello. He was assassinated by bravos in the hire of Spain, and after a long struggle the rebellion was suppressed. But Spain's hold on the two Sicilies, once loosened, was never so

strong again. France seized the provinces north of the Pyrenees and Franche-Comte. All authority in the German states had long been lost to Spain, and the last Spanish king of the Austrian dynasty, at the close of the seventeenth century, saw his realm the prey of the great powers.

Equally disastrous were those times in the colonies. The Dutch, French and English seized foothold in the Guianas and then helped themselves one after another to the smaller islands in the Caribbean sea. By the time of the Dutch war of 1665 the pretensions of Spain to universal ownership in those regions were wholly ignored. The English seized Jamaica. The French first took Tortuga and thence sent out filibusters, who presently drove the Spanish out of Haiti—Hispaniola, Little Spain—and made it a French province. Even Havana was attacked more than once. Drake had a fruitless venture at it. Penn and Venables, who took Jamaica, tried to take it, but failed. England did storm the forts in 1760 and held the city a few years, then gave it back to Spain. By the end of that century Trinidad, too, was snatched away, and Spain's commerce with the American colonies substantially destroyed. England came to her aid at home in the Napoleonic wars, and then France in turn helped Ferdinand VII to hold his throne.

Spain Loses a Continent. Early in the nineteenth century rebellions began in South America. Secret societies were formed which had for their object the throwing off of the Spanish yoke. The chief founder and promoter of these was a Spanish creole of Venezuela, Francisco Miranda by name. He had served under Washington in the American Revolution and had become thoroughly imbued with the spirit of liberty and with the principles of republicanism. What had been done in North America could, he thought, be done in South America. He therefore formed in London, since it could not

be done in the same year, and the Argentine confederation, after a ten years' war, in 1824. Brazil had been lost to Spain in the secession of Portugal, and Florida was ceded to the United States in 1819. Nothing was now left to Spain in the western hemisphere except Cuba and Puerto Rico.

Rebellious Remnants of an Empire. Beyond the rear end of the Spanish peninsula, a few islands adjoining her shores and a penal colony in Africa in which political prisoners are starved and tortured Spain has nothing left but Cuba and the Philippines, and both are in revolt. Columbus declared Cuba to be the "most beautiful land ever beheld by human eyes." Her peaceable natives the Spanish exterminated with every horror of torture. Since there was no gold in the island Cuba was neglected and ignored for many years. But the Spanish colonized it and ultimately found that its sugar plantations and tobacco fields were more profitable than gold mines. For two centuries it has proved the most valuable of all Spain's possessions. Cuba finally grew tired of being plundered by Spain, and rebellion after rebellion arose, only to be ruthlessly suppressed. Then came the famous ten years' war and finally the present formidable insurrection. The smaller island of Puerto Rico, which, with Cuba, makes up the remnant of Spain's empire in America, commands but slight attention. Its history has been colorless, its individuality not significant. It hangs upon the fate of Cuba.

The Philippines form an important link in the great volcanic mountain range lying off the Asian coast—Kamchatka, the Kuriles, Japan, Formosa, the Philippines, Borneo, Java. There are two large islands, Luzon and Mindanao, seven others of considerable size, and uncounted hundreds of smaller ones, down to the merest dots of verdurous rock on the sea. They are all made of volcanic rock and coral and abound in valuable minerals. The climate is tropical, but the height of the moun-



HAVANA IN 1720—FROM AN OLD PAINTING.

tain, but their fortifications are now in decay, so little attention having been paid to them since the wars of the French revolution that, with the exception of a few modern batteries here and there, they are not worthy of consideration. During the wars with Napoleon every port of Spain was put in a thorough state of defense by English money, but since the Spaniards have been left to their own devices the fortifications have been neglected, and even forts and batteries of modern style are mounted with old fashioned smoothbore guns, utterly ineffective in modern warfare.

At the entrance of the Mediterranean are two points which if properly fortified could be held against the naval powers of the world—Tarifa on the Spanish side and Ceuta on the opposite coast of Africa. Tarifa is, in the judgment of military critics, capable of being made as invulnerable as Gibraltar.

All the seaports of Spain have stronger fortifications on their land side than on that toward the sea. This odd circumstance is a relic of the French invasion in the early years of this century, and also significant of the turbulent condition of the country ever since, for the cities of Spain are, in the judgment of the Spaniards themselves than from a foreign enemy. On the bay of Biscay, Coruna and Ferrol are the principal fortresses, while at Vigo there are two small forts to protect the entrance of the harbor, and San Sebastian, the royal residence during the summer, is guarded by a mediæval castle and two or three water batteries. Coruna and Ferrol are situated on the same bay, about 20 miles apart, and the latter is the site of the largest navy yard and marine arsenal in Spain.

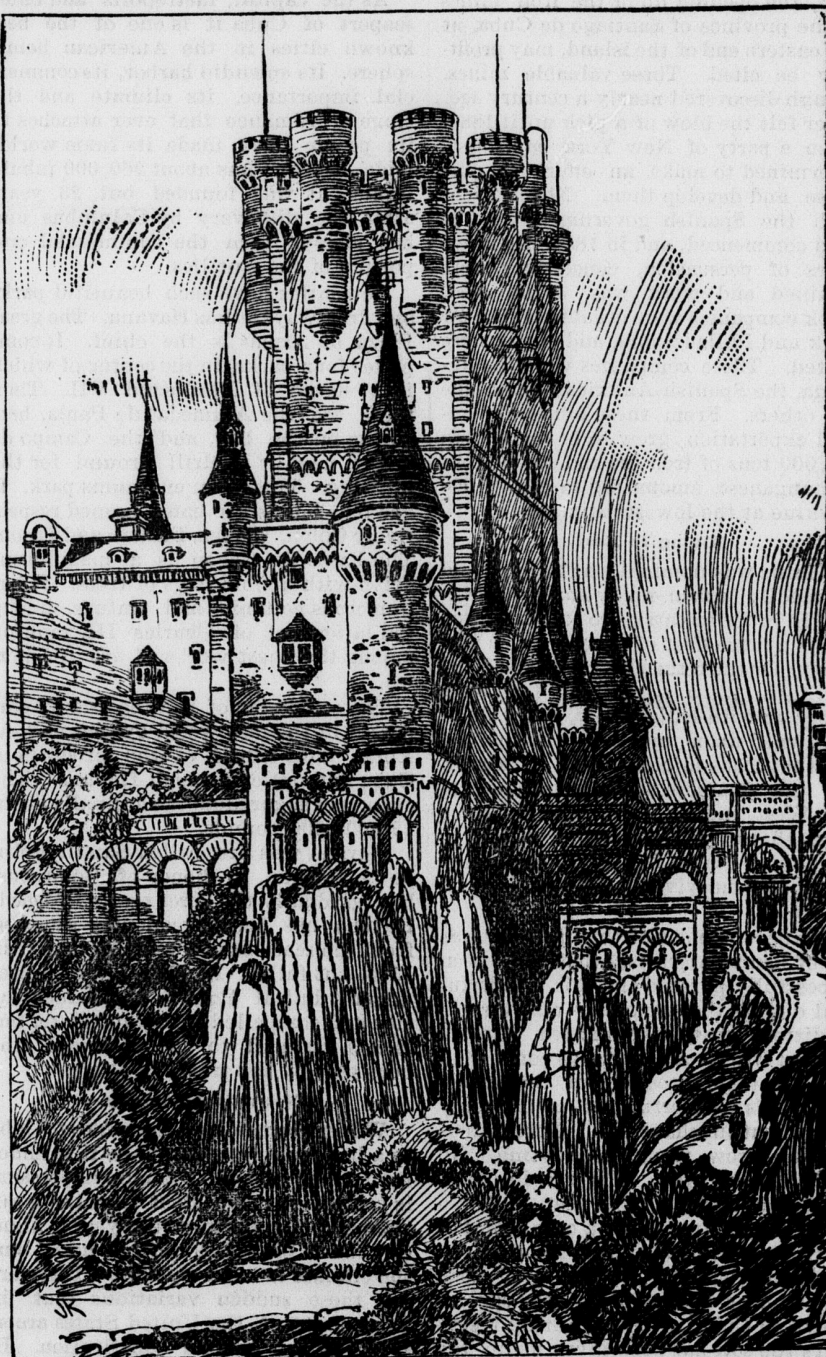
Spanish Characteristics. The story of Spain from great Charles V to little Alfonso XIII has no parallel in the history of the world. Historians and philosophers explain the phenomenon according to their individual ideas. Protestants attribute the fall of Spain to religious bigotry and the suppression of independent thought by the inquisition. One Catholic writer, on the other hand, maintains that leniency in dealing with heresy marked the beginning of national decay. Had Charles V been duly diligent in stamping out the reformation in Germany, says this writer, Spain would never have deteriorated. The political economist teaches that the enormous wealth brought from America instead of enriching really impoverished Spain, since it induced neglect of home industries and generated an extravagance which became the ruin of the nation. Buckle finds, or thinks he finds, the cause, partly at least, in the superstitious reverence for authority which kept the Spaniards faithful to church and state, even while they knew the one to be corrupt and the other incompetent. Pride of character and an arrogance that excited the hatred of all foreigners and the antagonism of all foreign states, the warlike habits of the Spanish people, confirmed by eight centuries of constant conflict with the Moors, draining the country of its best men and leaving only the weakly and infirm—each and every one of these causes, together with innumerable others, has been upheld by

able advocates. Be the cause what it may, the fact is apparent that the greatest nation of the fifteenth century is among the least of the nineteenth. The twentieth century may find her nothing but a memory.

Spain has had much architecture, some art and little literature. The Alhambra, the Escorial and the Alcazar are marvels of beauty and grandeur. In a book conspicuous for friendliness to Spain Mr. Chatfield-Taylor says that Spaniards are probably less understood in America than any people in Europe. In fact, the popular conception of the Spaniard is of a sinister scoundrel, wrapped in a cloak, who smokes cigarettes and commits dark deeds—a sort of comic opera villain, whose passion is cruelty. This absurdity is fully equalled by the Spanish impressions of Americans—or "los Yankees," as they call us. They look upon us as a species of plutocratic barbarians, whose sole merit lies in our dollars, whose manners are boorish and whose government is the most corrupt and most overbearing in the world. It is not always pleasant to



see ourselves as others see us, and when one reads in Spanish papers that the United States is a country without principle or religion, without manliness or bravery, where negroes are roasted alive and Italians lynched in the public streets, where Chinamen are persecuted and strikes are prevalent, where anarchists are governors of states and personal liberty is unknown, one resents the tirade and feels the jingo spirit surging in one's heart. As a matter of fact, the Spanish conception of the American is merely an exaggeration of the national faults, just as our idea of the Spaniard is a misconception of his character, formed by magnifying his vices at the expense of his virtues. Human nature is very much the same the world over, and the Spaniard is very like other men, save that he is down on his luck. Like most people who have known prosperity, he finds it difficult to appreciate his circumscribed position and is wont to survey himself from the magnificent standpoint of his achievements.



THE ALCAZAR OF SEVILLE.

safely be done at Caracas, the "Gran Reunion Americana." Into this Bolivar and San Martin were initiated. For some years Miranda made occasional but futile attempts at revolution, in one of which he engaged the interest of the great Dundonald. Nothing of importance was achieved, however, until April 19, 1810, when Caracas openly rose against its Spanish governor, Miranda and Bolivar heading the revolt. Two years of conflict followed, not promising for the insurgents. Then came an earthquake. It destroyed Caracas, killing a number of people. The superstitious troops of the insurgents thought it was an omen, threw down their arms, deserted or surrendered, and the rebellion was at an end. Miranda was captured, taken to Spain and died in prison—murdered, it may be surmised. Bolivar escaped into the neighboring province of New Granada.

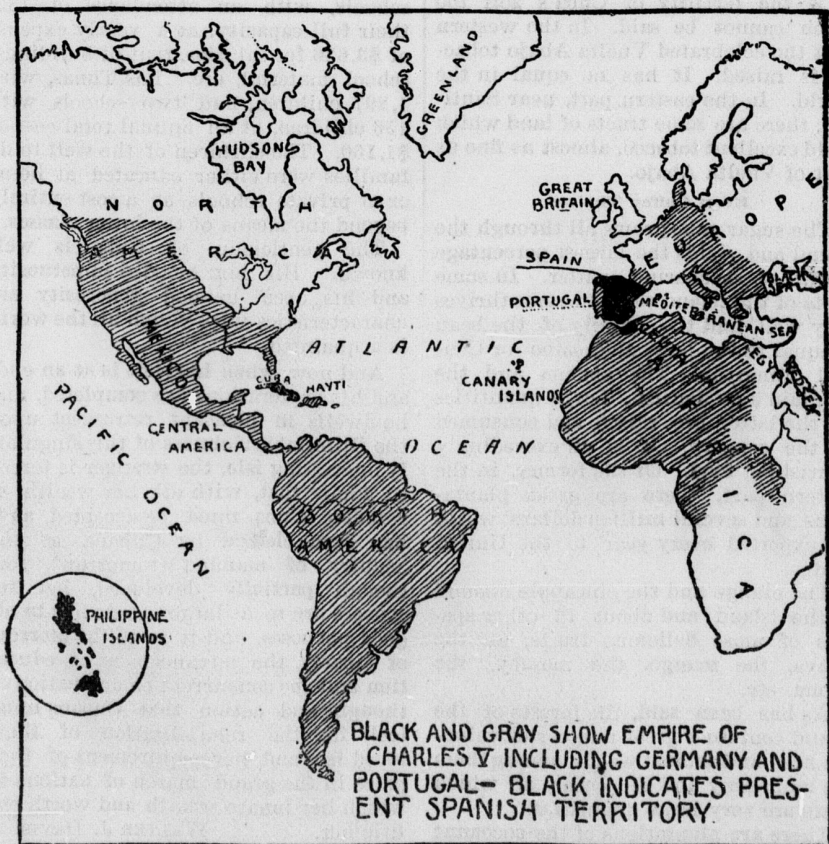
In October, 1812, Bolivar re-entered Venezuela with 500 men, declaring war to the knife against Spain. Victory followed victory. In August, 1813, he re-entered Caracas in triumph. Then came reverses, and he had to flee to Jamaica. For some years more the struggle went on, until 1821, when New Granada and Venezuela were united as an independent republic under the name of Colombia, the last of the Spanish troops being driven out in 1824. Ecuador was added to the republic in 1822. Peru formed another state in 1825 under the name of Bolivia. Peru itself—and Chile also, thanks to the genius of Dundonald—became independent in 1824. Mexico threw off the yoke of Spain in 1821, and Guatemala—then including all Central America—in 1822. Nor did the provinces on the Plata river lag behind. Paraguay, indeed, was first of all to win her independence, in 1814. Uruguay fol-

lows and plateaus makes it endurable to Europeans. The total area of land is 54,000 square miles, and the population some 8,000,000. The flora is wonderfully profuse, comprising teak, sandal and camphor trees, palms, tea, a vast variety of spices and perfume bearing flowers, rice and the famous manilla hemp. The fauna shows no dangerous beasts of prey save the crocodile. There are buffaloes, pigs, antelopes, monkeys and lemurs galore. As for the people, they are as much mixed as those of Spain itself. Negritos were probably autochthonous. Then Polynesians came in, and then Malays. Chinese also came in great numbers, and of late years the Japanese have been flocking, with intent, it may well be, to possess the island when the Spanish are expelled. The Spanish population is very small. Industry and commerce are considerable. There are steamship lines, railroads, telegraphs and cables, and a foreign trade of \$60,000,000 a year. Manila is a splendid city, set on the margin of one of the finest harbors in the world. It has an ancient fortress, fine churches, a gay parade, busy streets and canals, parks and palaces, hotels and theaters. The inhabitants are an amiable and handsome race.

Fortified Cities of Spain. The fortified cities of Spain on the north and northwest coast are Santona, Santander, Coruna, Ferrol and Vigo; on the Atlantic, between the Portuguese frontier and the strait of Gibraltar, there are Palos, San Lúcar, near the mouth of the Guadalquivir river; Cadiz and Tarifa. In the Mediterranean are Malaga, Cartagena, Barcelona, Palamos, Tarragona, Almeria and Alicante. Barcelona, Cartagena and Almeria were formerly looked upon as the most formidable fortresses on the Mediterra-



THE ALHAMBRA.



BLACK AND GRAY SHOW EMPIRE OF CHARLES V INCLUDING GERMANY AND PORTUGAL—BLACK INDICATES PRESENT SPANISH TERRITORY.



CHARLES V.

province at the time Spain ruled Portugal. The total dominion of Charles at its zenith was about 17,000,000 square miles, double that of the czar of Russia and infinitely greater than that of any other monarch in history. Nor was Spain great in size and strength alone. She was rich beyond computation. Besides the boundless resources of the Spanish peninsula, which the Rothschilds consider superior security for enormous loans, the wealth of Germany, Austria and the Netherlands was at the disposal of Spain.

All this, however, was as nothing to the gold and silver that poured in from America. The native monarchs of Mexico, Central America and Peru yielded up their treasures at the command of Spanish adventurers, and the mines, worked by Indian slaves, produced the precious metals in quantities that dazzled the world and intoxicated the Spaniards. It is estimated that during the century which followed the discov-