

Alfonso XIII.

BY APEMANTUS.

From 1890 to 1898 the postal issues of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines bore the portrait of the youngest living king, Alfonso XIII of Spain. According to Bonsal he signs himself "Leon Ferdinand Marie Jaime Isidore Pascal Antonio, King of Spain, of Castile, of Leon, of Aragon, of the two Sicilies, of Jerusalem, of Navarre, of Grenada, of Toledo, of Valencia, of Galacia, of Majorea, of Minorca, of Seville, of Cardena, of Cordova, of Corsica, of Murcia, of Jean, of the Algarvos, of Algeliras, of Gibraltar, of the Canary Islands, of the Indies, East and West, of India and the Oceanic Continent, Archduke of Austria, Duke of Burgundy, of Brabant, and of Milan, Count of Hapsburg, of Flanders, of Tyrol and Barcelona, Lord of Biscay, and Molina, etc." "Tomorrow his signature may simply be 'Alfonso Garcia y Perez,—the commonplace name which his father entered upon the dingy books of many a second-class hotel, during the years that he spent in not very luxurious exile."

The foregoing will give our studious readers a good outline for study in geography and history if they have a desire to know of the land of 'the boy king.'

Alfonso XIII, was born May 17, 1886, and was proclaimed King, under the regency of his mother, on the day of his birth. His father died about six months before his birth and to guard against fraud, he came into the world in the presence of his ministers of state, cabinet officers, and members of the regency and privy council. In two more years he will have attained his majority, according to the laws of Spain, and will then rule in his

own stead. It is predicted that there will be another Carlist uprising when Alfonso comes to rule; but perhaps Spain will have enough of war long before that time shall come. Don Carlos would have to bear the entire cost of an uprising, his recent appeal for funds having failed dismally. The last and youngest of his three daughters having recently married, he will now have to turn over the large fortune left them by their mother, his first wife, Don Carlos having been appointed by her, guardian of the three girls. The princess Elvire, the second daughter has commenced suit against her father, demanding a complete statement of all accounts during his term of guardianship, and claiming immediate delivery of her share of her mother's estate. It is generally believed that a large part of the estate has been eaten up by her father's prodigalities, and that the approaching trial will reveal secret transactions of a more or less scandalous nature. This will in all probability tend to so lessen Don Carlos' popularity and leave him in such financial condition, that little Alfonso will come into his kingdom, in peace.

Although it was predicted on his birth that a son of such a father could not live long, Alfonso, though small in stature, is a wiry little lad, and likely to live many years yet. There is just one empty tomb in the dark crypt of the Escorial, in which the Spanish kings are buried. Will Alfonso XIII ever occupy it, or is it reserved for another? Time only will tell.

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