

and of many persons of note in Europe, known to be interested in the fate of men now suffering for conscience sake in prison, and over whom impends the dread sentence of labour in the galleys.

The Duke of Tetuan, while stating the obstacles to General Alexander's object, expressed his satisfaction with the manner in which it had been sought to promote it, and promised to submit the papers presented to him to his colleagues in office. He made some remarks upon Spain being less intolerant than was generally supposed; adding, that though she would allow nothing like dictation or foreign interference, still her Government was considerate of moral influences and of fair representations that came properly before them. He observed, that though he could hold out no hope of an immediate favourable result, yet, if the object was to be gained, the course adopted was the best that could have been pursued for the purpose. In the course of his remarks the Captain General alluded, in a gratifying manner, to his own Irish origin, and spoke in very complimentary terms of the army to which the General belongs, and of the Sovereign whom it is his honour to serve.

The final result of this interview will be anxiously waited for by Protestants throughout Europe and America.

General Alexander took occasion to lay before the Prime Minister a copy of the British memorial, signed by most of the Bishops and men of high standing in both Houses of Parliament, to the Protestant Government of Sweden, petitioning the Crown to remit the punishment of exile then recently inflicted on persons who had become Roman Catholics, and to change so barbarous a law. The prayer, it is well known, has been complied with.

It cannot but be hoped that this mission has already had its effect. The prison doors are not yet opened; but a nation and Government like the Spanish will not be indifferent either to the respectful manner of the application, or to the universal anxiety with which the issue will be expected. The recent rapid progress of Spain is before Europe. The liberation of Matamoros and his fellow-prisoners will be a guarantee of its solidity and its permanence.

The following is the substance of a letter addressed by Manuel Matamoros to the committee of the Evangelical Alliance at Paris. The letter is dated "Prison of the Audiencia, Granada, December 30, 1861":—

#### LETTER FROM MATAMOROS.

After fifteen months of harassing detention, and continued and inhuman espionage, the sentence of the Inferior Tribunal has just been notified to me; this sentence awards the penalty of seven years of the galleys, and of perpetual civil disability, with costs. My companion in captivity, M. Alhama, has been also condemned to seven years of the galleys, and my other companion to four years of the same penalty. The others against whom the Public Prosecutor demanded the penalties of four and seven years of the galleys have been acquitted and dismissed, without costs. Several others who have fled have been also condemned for contumacy to four years at the galleys; but some among them being in the United States, and most of them having assumed other names, the sentence cannot affect any of them. The crime for which I am condemned to seven years of the galleys is that of attempting to abolish or change, in Spain, the Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman religion, an offence provided for in Article 123 of the Penal Code, which is conceived in these terms:—

"Article 123.—The attempt to abolish or change in Spain the Catholic Apostolic, and Roman religion shall be punished with temporary imprisonment, and perpetual banishment if the culprit is a public functionary, and commits the offence in abuse of his authority. In the contrary case, the penalty shall be imprisonment *mayor*, and, in case of repetition of the offence, perpetual banishment.

You will see, honoured brethren, the second part of this article is applied to me, for the seven years of the galleys to which I am condemned are the minimum of the imprisonment *mayor*, which is applied to the extent of seven to twelve years. The penalty of perpetual civil disability and the payment of costs are added.

Dear and honoured brethren, . . . If this misfortune, which weighs down my country, deeply affects and saddens me, it is not thus, my dear friends, with