

amount of the exports in 1850, was \$23,946,300 ; these figures rose in 1857, 139 per cent., or to \$57,361,400.

A school system, less perfect than those of more favorite nations, but still improving from year to year, has been established. The primary schools in 1855 numbered 20,753, involved an expenditure on the part of government of \$1,719,900, and were attended by 1,004,974 pupils. In 1857 the number of these schools was less than 11,000, with an attendance of only 393,126. Fifty-three public, and forty-two private academies existed in 1858, having 17,180 scholars. The ten universities are frequented by 6,104 students. Normal and technical schools have been founded, within a few years, in all the provinces.

The chief reason of the rising prosperity evinced by the figures we have given, lies patent upon the surface of Spanish history. That church, which has shown itself at all times unfavorable to political and civil liberty, which has shown itself at all times unfavorable to the progress of general enlightenment, and which has been the direct or indirect cause of the innumerable evils which many generations of Spaniards have been compelled to endure, received in 1836 a blow from which it cannot recover. In that year, two years after the abolition of the Inquisition and the banishment of the Jesuits, the monks, in consequence of a decree of the Cortes, were removed from the monasteries, and it was resolved to devote the great monastic property of the church to the partial payment of the public debt. Down to 1856 the sum of nearly one hundred millions of dollars, derived from the sale of ecclesiastical estates, had been so applied. The consequences of this act are easily seen. The church was deprived of a large part of that wealth which she had so misused, and which was one of the most important sources of her power. In 1787 the clergy, regular and secular, numbered 181,295, or one in fifty-six of the entire population, a proportion which was probably but little diminished during the succeeding half century ; in 1857 they had been reduced to 56,254, or one in 275 of the whole population. In 1841 the national legislature declared all the lands of the church to be national property. A subsequent concordat with the papal government partially restored the confiscated domain into the hands of the church ; but the number of monks is now limited by law.

Spain aspires to a place among the great powers of the old world. The five arbiters of the political destiny of Europe are not, at present inclined to sanction her pretensions. But a few years of good government, accompanied by the increased prosperity and increased population which must inevitably be developed by good government, will enable her to present her claims with such force that they cannot be disputed. Let her remember that in the stout hands of her millions of yeomanry, in the still untilled portions of her national domain, in the vineyards upon her hill sides, in the mines within her mountain