

A similar inscription might serve for the prisons of Spain, and of many another country.

The man who throws a bomb anywhere is a real criminal. He is invading the lives, to say nothing of the rights and liberties, of others. Let the person aimed at be ever such a tyrant, in constituting himself judge, jury and executioner the assassin or tyrannicide becomes a criminal, whose sole excuse is that he must be insane to so constitute himself. But righteous indignation at murder should not be vented on the innocent. And the Spanish exiles are not assassins, but victims. In this I write that which I know. I have seen them and have examined the evidence which is available. I have seen that one at least has been terribly tortured. They are certainly not the scum of the earth, not criminals, but intelligent men, with the conscience which comes from intelligence, —the very men who in propitious circumstances might help to redeem their country.

When Louis XIV., instigated by his priestly advisers, commenced the persecution of Protestants in France, he made a step towards the Revolution, and decisively benefited our country while injuring his own. Mr. Samuel Smiles, in his work on the Huguenots, has clearly shown that to them we owe very many of our industrial arts, and much of the most valuable life-blood of our race. To Freethinkers it should be necessary to mention but one name—that of Harriet Martineau. Had I lived four centuries ago, I would rather have been with the stigmatized few who raised their voice against the expulsion of the Jews; had I lived two centuries ago, I should, I trust, have sided with, and if possible helped, the Huguenots; and now I would at least say my little word for the outlawed Radicals, Freethinkers, Socialists and Anarchists of Spain. It is easy to over-estimate or under-estimate contemporary events, but history has decidedly set its mark on the character of the policy of Christian Spain.

Freedom of opinion cannot thus be stamped out forever. In Mexico, Cuba, and South America are a race of Spaniards, republican, free-thinking, and cosmopolitan in sympathy. That New Spain is reacting, and will react, on the old country. So with Germany. The Emperor may repress Socialism, deprive Freethinking professors of their chairs, and imprison all advanced speakers for *lese Majesty*; but in America a new Germany is growing, which will surely make its influence felt on the Fatherland. It is folly to sit on the safety-valve. In the Macchiavellian phrase, it is worse than a crime—it is a blunder. The crimes and stupidities of Anarchists are often pointed out. I am not one to defend them. Rather let me emphasize the fact that the bomb-thrower at Barcelona was the occasion of the wholesale imprisonment of hundreds of innocent men and women, and that Golli, by his assassination of Canovas, gave excuse for the fresh *razzia*. But who shall write of the crimes and stupidities of Governments? It would need the pen of a Swift and the patience of a Mommsen.\*

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