

punity. Braves and discarded serving-men, with swords at their sides, swaggered every day through the most public streets of the capital, disturbing the public peace, and setting at defiance the ministers of public justice. The finances were in frightful disorder. The people paid much, the government received little. The American viceroys, and the farmers of the revenue became rich; while the merchants broke, while the peasantry starved; while the body servants of the sovereign remained unpaid; while the soldiers of the royal guard repaired daily to the doors of convents, and battled there with the crowd of beggars for a porringer of broth and a morsel of bread. * *

Heaps of unopened despatches accumulated in the offices, while the ministers were concerting with bedchamber-women and Jesuits the means of tripping each other up. Every foreign power could plunder and insult with impunity the heir of Charles the Fifth.' This description is hardly more applicable to the reign of Charles the Fifth than to any period of the one hundred and fifty years which followed his demise. At length, after a cycle of degradation which seemed destined to be interminable, Spain appears to have felt the progressive influence of the age, and to have been reanimated by the example of neighbouring nationalities. That a marked and favourable change had taken place in her affairs, has been evident to those who have watched the course of events within her borders for the last half-dozen years. We are now able to determine the character and extent of that change by the most convincing of proofs, the evidence of figures. A census of the monarchy, far more accurate and comprehensive than any previous enumeration of the populace of the peninsula, has recently been completed. Its results have been systematically arranged and given to the world by a statistical commission, modeled upon the best institutions of the kind in Europe. The citizens of Spain, of what ever party, whether Christians or Carlists, *exaltados* or *moderados*, cannot fail to appreciate the hopeful promises which these results hold out, as they cannot avoid understanding the wholesome lessons which they inculcate.

The former censuses of Spain were taken in 1594, 1787, 1797. Official estimates of the population, in many respects necessarily imperfect and unreliable, were made in 1768-9, 1833, 1846, and 1850. The published results were as follows:

1594	8,207,000
1768-9	9,160,000
1787	10,268,000
1797	10,541,000
1833	12,287,000
1846	12,163,000
1850	10,942,000

The new enumeration proves that the inhabitants of the kingdom