

## HOW GENERAL PRIM ENTERED SPAIN.

A Gibraltar correspondent of the *Times* writes:—

I have learnt that General Prim left Southampton in a steamer of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, and reached Gibraltar on the morning of the 7th. He was disguised as a valet, and travelled in the suite of a Swedish count. He was accompanied by another *emigre*, who was his fellow-servant. During the voyage the pseudo-valet remained in the back-ground, but other passengers have since recollected that, when off their guard, master and man appeared to be on strange terms of intimacy. On embarking at Southampton the Count complained in strong terms of the second class accommodation, and insisted on his valet being furnished with a cabin in the saloon. A steamer awaited the arrival of the mail from Southampton, to which General Prim and his friends were transhipped at once without going on shore. Had he landed, great risk would have been incurred, as he is well known in this fortress. The same evening, the vessel in which the conspirators were embarked proceeded to Cadiz. I believe they were anxiously expected, and that same night were taken round to all the men-of-war lying in Cadiz Bay, in order to announce by their actual presence the good news of their arrival. By some means or other rumours of the expected visit of Prim had got abroad at Cadiz on the 17th, and that evening threatening demonstrations were made by the populace. These were suppressed by the authorities, the streets were cleared, and next morning the military governor took over the Government, proclaiming the town in a state of siege. Cadiz was very restless throughout that morning, but about noon the action taken by the fleet put an end to all uncertainty. The ships lying in Cadiz Bay were the ironclads *Villa de Madrid*, the *Saragoza*, and *Tetuan*, the war steamers *Isabella II.*, *Vulcano*, and *Ferrol*, and the gunboats *Edetana* and *Ligera*. About 1 p. m. the whole of these, under the command of Capt. Topete (Brigadier-Commanding the Squadron), formed across the bay and closed the port. This act was followed by a salute of twenty-one guns fired by all the men-of-war the crews manning yards and cheering vociferously. The excitement on shore naturally grew apace. Soon news arrived that Cadiz had been cut off from Seville by the destruction of the railway bridge at San Fernando. The telegraphic communication was also interrupted. Heavy rain fell during the afternoon, and the streets were deserted, but during the night the insurgents carried out their purpose. A large party of citizens collected in the cotton factories of Balon, whence a deputation, headed by Senors Sanchez, Mira, Bolonos, Haurie, and Guerra, proceeded to the barracks of San Roque and Santa Elena, where the regiment "Cantabria" was quartered. The soldiers were called upon to pronounce, and responded unanimously. From that moment Cadiz was in the hands of the revolutionists. Generals Prim and Topete landed at about six a. m. on the 19th, and took formal possession of Cadiz in the name of the revolution. Both Prim and Topete had addressed manifestoes to the public before the rising was effected. These were followed by a proclamation signed by General Prim appointing a Provisional Government.

## THE FRENCH PRESS ON THE REVOLUTION IN SPAIN.

The disasters which have befallen the cause of Queen Isabella naturally find more sympathy in the French journals according to the intensity of their political bias. Thus the *Moniteur* endeavours to disparage Serrano's victory and to modify the situation as far as known facts will permit. The semi-official *Constitutionnel* is quite alive to the reality of the position of Isabella and her Government. It recognises the fact of the Queen taking refuge in France, and having arrived at Hentage on her way to Pau. That journal adds in a plaintive tone—"No one will be taken by surprise at this news. When the example of disobedience and want of discipline is given by those who are entrusted with power, when the representatives and national defenders of the monarchical principle become negligent of duty, and suffer the dignity of the throne to be assailed, there is no longer any hope that on the day when the monarchy is in danger the props of the dynasty will remain firm. But let us be under no delusion as to the actual character of the insurrection. It is before a military and aristocratic rebellion that Queen Isabella has fallen, and not in consequence of a national rising. The people had little or nothing to do with the events of the last eight days. They left everything to the generals and the heads of parties, and made no decisive movement one way or the other. The first act is played. Who will be bold enough to predict the nature of the denouement?" In the meantime the *Siecle* and others of the Liberal journals make no secret of their satisfaction at the issue of this short and decisive struggle. Upon the whole, the feeling prevailing in Paris is one of congratulation at the triumph of the revolution, but there is evidently great uncertainty as to the course which events will hereafter take, and a certain admixture of fear and doubt on this head obviously tends to check the degree of exhilaration which would otherwise be felt at the overthrow of a corrupt Government and political system. A Liberal journal, whose sympathies for the insurgents have been emphatic and undisguised, concludes a short review of late events thus:—"Well, the revolution triumphs. From this day the Spanish people hold their destinies in their own hands. In this solemn hour, which will be blessed in the memory of nations for the joy which has been given to everybody, we have no advice to offer to the conquerors. They have been energetic and moderate in the struggle. They will know how to exercise the same qualities in victory."

Several French men of war have been dispatched to the coast to assist any French subjects who may require it, but with the distinct understanding that their commanders are by no means to interfere with the progress of events.

## CAPTAIN MONCRIEFF'S INVENTION.

The London *Times* says:—We published yesterday the account of a second series of experiments on what, to all appearance, is the most important artillery invention of modern times. It may be briefly described as a device for rendering the heaviest guns absolutely invisible and unapproachable, except at the actual instant of firing; and

even then nothing is to be seen but the gun itself, the men who work it and the whole machinery remaining completely protected. Like all great inventions, it is supremely simple in principle, though the highest mechanical skill must have been called into play in developing it. To take a homely illustration, let the reader imagine a child's rocking-horse with a toy rifleman mounted on the tail; let him suppose that the rockers are weighted in front, so that the natural position of the horse is with its head down and its heels in the air. The rifleman on its tail will then be raised above the body of the horse, and may be supposed to be peering above a parapet or hillock in order to fire his rifle. Let it be supposed that the force of the recoil is communicated to the horse; it rolls back on its rockers into a level position, the seat of the rifleman is lowered, and he again becomes concealed behind the ground in front of him. In this position he is fixed by a catch until his rifle is again loaded. The catch is then set free, and he rolls up again to fire another shot, and again to recoil into safety. The rifleman in this illustration corresponds to the 7-inch or 12-inch Woolwich gun; the rockers of the rocking-horse are the "elevators" mentioned in the descriptions we have published. In this simple conception lies the substance of the invention, and the reader, we think, will have no difficulty in following us in the deductions we proceed to draw.

The first effect of this discovery is that any gun may be placed anywhere, so as to be absolutely impregnable to horizontal firing. Hitherto, if a gun was to be brought into action it has been necessary to provide for it a platform at least on level with the surface of the ground. The gun and the gunners must, therefore, either be wholly unprotected, in which case the gun is said to be mounted *en barbette*, or a wall of some sort must be built up in front to protect them, and a hole pierced in the wall for the gun to fire through. In practice it has been found excessively difficult to provide a wall of sufficient strength to afford complete protection. The hole in the wall or the *embrasure*, is always a weak point. At the best, it affords a convenient mark for the enemy's aim, and, being of necessity funnel-shaped, it not only admits his projectiles, but actually assists their entry. But by Captain Moncreiff's invention the gun and gunners are placed below ground. The gun rolls up above the mouth of a pit to deliver its charge, and then sinks again. One lookout man, whose head it would always be easy to conceal, is sufficient to give information to the men in the pit, and to direct the whole movement of the gun: There is, therefore, no need of a wall, for there remains nothing to protect, nothing for the enemy to fire at, nothing even for him to see. His projectiles will either fly safe over the head of the pit, or pitch harmlessly into the ground around it. The reader must next be reminded that we are at present spending incalculable sums in providing the protective walls to which we refer, and into rendering our *embrasures* as safe as possible. The various iron shields which have been so ingeniously constructed and so successfully destroyed are simply devices for this purpose, and be it understood that the Millwall shield, which has beaten the Gibraltar, is offered by the contractor at the modest cost of a thousand pounds for every gun protected. Now, Captain Moncreiff has, in all probability, rendered us absolutely independent of these elaborate and costly constructions so far as regards land fortifications.