

Cortes are closed, my heart is necessarily affected by sensations of different kinds, though still they accord with the circumstances in which the nation is placed.

"Invaded, as our territory is, by the most unheard of treachery, on the part of a perfidious enemy who owe their existence chiefly to this magnanimous nation the world beholds violated in her the rights of all countries, and all the principles the most sacred among men; Pretended defects in our political institutions; supposed errors in our interior administration; a feigned wish to restore tranquillity, the disturbance of which is the work of those alone who exaggerate it; affected concern for the dignity of a Monarch who wishes not to be one but for the happiness of his subjects—such were the prettexts of an aggression which will be the scandal of posterity, and the blackest spot of the nineteenth century. But, hypocrisy, emboldened by her ephemeral progress, soon threw off the mask, and discovering all the horror of her views, no longer allows even the most duped to doubt, that the only reform that she aims at is, to deprive the Nation of all independence, of all liberty, and all hope; and that the dignity which she pretends to restore to my crown consists only in dishonouring me, in exposing my Royal Person and Family, and in undermining the foundation of my throne, to raise herself on its ruins."

He then accuses the French of bribery, and of employing all the crimes and passions of men on their side. He speaks of the defection of Abisbal as the unfortunate cause of the loss of Madrid; and deplores that their base measures are allowed to prevail, and to descend with such force on his deserving subjects.

"But," he continues; "in the midst of these disasters, Spain preserves her magnanimous resolution, and the Cortes, in the closest union with my government, have ever maintained themselves such as they were in the memorable days of the ninth and eleventh of January last:

The serenity and wisdom of their deliberations hitherto, amidst such bitterness and danger, the confidence which their patriotism inspires, and the hatred itself with which they are humoured by the enemies of the country, are so many proofs that they have deserved well of it.—Indefatigable in promoting all the branches of public prosperity, they have issued various decrees and contribute to it, as far as circumstances permit."

He then expresses his thanks for the promptitude with which the Cortes have seconded his efforts for the public good; states, that tho' he has withdrawn his charge d'affairs from Lisbon, there is no interruption in the ties of amity between the two nations; expresses a firm belief that Divine Providence will yet interpose to restore peace, and preserve the liberties of the nation; and concludes in these words:

"My government shall cease to exist before it take any step contrary to the oaths by which it is connected with the country, or to what is required by the honour and the dignity of my crown; and if circumstances shall require it, it will seek, in the extraordinary cortes, a safe harbour for the vessel of state. In such case, I will assemble them, always depending upon their zeal and patriotism, and jointly we will travel the path of glory, until a peace be obtained, at once honorable and worthy of Spaniards, and of myself."