In a moment Celeste de Sigefroi stood before the emperor, but the old baron had already been too much surprised to express any new wonder at this appearance.

"De Sigefroi," said Joseph, as the fair maiden entered "no lives have been lost by your evil deeds, and as we are unwilling to cloud the budding happiness of your child, we will forgive you your offence on two conditions, and furthermore, your crimes shall be kept from the world. Here are two papers. By this you convey to your daughter one half of all your estates as a marriage dower, & by this you give her hand in marriage to Lubin Bleinkoff. Will you sign them?"

As the emperor spoke he laid the two papers upon the table before him and awaited the old man's answer. De Sigefroi gazed first upon his daughter, then upon his sovereign, and then upon the two men whom he had so basely attempted to destroy. He trusted not his tongue to speak; but stepping up to the table, he seized the pen and traced his autograph upon each of the papers.

"There," said Joseph, as a kind smile irradiated his benevolent features, at the same time handing the papers to Lubin, "take those documents and preserve them." Then turning to the baron, he continued:

"Let this be a warning to your, Freyherr, and may you live long enough to atone for the wrong you have done. You are at liberty."

The baron lived not long to bear the infamy of his crimes, but ere he died he blessed his daughter, and then placed her hand in the keeping of Lubin Bleinkoff. Roland Eppenhoff received an ample independence from the old man's store of wealth, and when at last, the death angel came to take the baron away, he had the satisfaction of knowing himself forgiven by those whom he had once doomed as victims to the dark, deep confines of his SECRET VAULT. —*The Flag of our Union.*

President Roberts and the "Ladies' Literary Institute."

Mr. Editor —

You may already have heard the arrival of Her Majesty's steam vessel "Dee" Captain G. T. C. Sullivan, from England via Madeira and Sierra Leone, with President Roberts and family on board.

The President's arrival was not unexpected—for a fortnight or more, preparations were on foot for his reception,—and it is matter of regret to many of the citizens that the President's movements were so rapid as to deprive them of the pleasure of the public demonstration contemplated. As the steamer entered the roads, all were on tiptoe to learn whether the President was on board, and the first certain intelligence of his arrival was a note from him to Vice President Williams, announcing his arrival, and that he would be on shore almost as soon as the note reached the Govt: House. The news flew through the city, and simultaneously the exclamation was heard in every direction—"the President's coming"—"the President's coming." Crowds were seen wending their way to the landing, and looking out for him with pleasing anxiety. The president landed, and was received as he stepped from the barge of Admiral Bruce, which had been placed at his disposal by the officers of his cabinet and a large concourse of distinguished gentlemen of the city; and was escorted by them to the Govt: House, where also a large crowd had assembled to welcome him.

It is not my intention, Mr. Editor, to trespass upon your columns further than to ask the insertion of the following in reference to the part taken by the Ladies Literary Institute. The Ladies of the Institute had made suitable arrangements for the occasion but the short notice placed it beyond their power to carry them out as anticipated. However they assembled, or a large number of them, in front of the President's residence—lining each side of the entrance, two of their number bearing above a beautifully wrought wreath of flowers, and as he passed under it, all greeted him warmly. The Ladies returned to their hall, where it was agreed that the Institute would reassemble at 8 o'clock, and proceed in a body to the residence of the President, to pay their respects to him. The following is from the minutes of the Institute.

"December 10th—at the hour appointed, the Ladies' Literary Institute met at the residence of their Secretary, and, preceded by their Directress Miss Frances Cyrus, moved in procession to the President's dwelling; they were shown into the drawing room—when two of their number were deputed to wait on the President to request that he would join them. The President shortly entered the room accompanied by the two ladies: when the Society rose to receive him, and the Directress, surrounded by a large crowd of spectators of both sexes, addressed him as follows.

PRESIDENT ROBERTS.

Your return to the shores of our delightful country, once more we hail with unspeakable emotions of delight, and we feel assured, that not only a new so now surrounds you rejoice; but the hearts of hundreds to whom the news of your arrival has reached, throb, in unison with ours, with delightful emotions, and each, uniting with us in sentiment, repeat the sound of *welcome! welcome!*

Look at the crowd which now surround you—composed of various classes of persons, see in their excited appearance,—in the joyful expression of their countenances,—see an evidence of their enraptured feelings—a proof of the cordial welcome, which every citizen extends to you—

And permit your humble friend, as a representative of the Ladies' Literary Institute, to tender to your Excellency, in the name of that Society, their most cordial welcome—a welcome told over and over—a heart felt welcome to you the man who *deserves* to be honored, and whom *we* delight to honor. We congratulate you on the favourable reception which you met while abroad, and on the success which has attended the whole of your voyage, feeling, at the same time, grateful to a kind Providence, for thus preserving your life & health, and returning you to us in safety. And now our fervent prayer is, that the remainder of your days, wherever spent, whether in the engagements of public life, or in quiet retirement, may be crowned with peace and prosperity, and when your sun is about to decline, may it shed its parting ray, on a nother orb, which shall rise in glorious effulgence, and whose career, like yours, shall be one of light and usefulness to Liberia."

The President appeared much moved as the speaker proceeded, and at the conclusion of the address, he expressed to the ladies sincere thanks for the kind welcome they had extended to him. He remarked that during his absence, though he had been called to encounter many difficulties and had been greatly perplexed, still the interests of Liberia, civil, religious, and literary—were constantly the objects of his solicitude, and notwithstanding the Govt: and people of Liberia had been misrepresented abroad,—and their character shamefully traduced, he lost no opportunity to correct these false statements, and vindicate the character of his fellow citizens, and he felt that his efforts had been attended with success.

At the conclusion of his remarks the Institute sang the following lines composed for the occasion.

We omit the first five stanzas for want of room Ed:

But we'd not be mindful be,
O' God who gives the victory,
Let us to Him our voices raise
In songs of gratitude and praise.

And let Liberia's Sons rejoice;
And every daughter lend her voice,
To spread the cheering truth abroad,
Jehovah is, our friend and God.

After the singing the President again returned thanks to the Society and expressed, his entire gratification at the performances, remarking that such a compliment was beyond anything he had expected. He said he did not feel worthy of the honors which the Ladies had so freely lavished upon him.—He felt thankful to kind Providence, which had so favourably ordered things during his absence.

He expressed his approbation of the sentiments expressed in the above stanzas "God is on Liberia's side and if we put our trust in Him, we have nothing to fear,—although truth will prevail over falsehood."

The Institute then sang the "National Anthem"—and retired to the residence of the Secretary, where, Mr. E. W. R. Blyden, requested that the Society be called to order when he proposed the following resolution.

Resolved, that Mr. Blyden be requested to prepare an account of the doings of the Society, this evening to be published in the "Liberia Herald."

The resolution was seconded and unanimously adopted, after which, the Institute adjourned.

M. E. MCGILL,
Sec'y. L. L. Institute

Mr Herald—Please give the above a place in your paper, and oblige, Yours respectfully.

E. W. BLYDEN,

Monrovia Dec. 11th 1852.

For the Liberia Herald

Mr. Herald,

I notice in your paper of December 1st, that "X. Y." your "Clay Ass:nd Correspondent, undertakes to give the views and feelings of the "people on the St. Paul's river settlements" with regard to the present military system," &c. stating their dissatisfaction with it &c.

Will you please to inform the public how it happened that "X Y" has lately become so diligent an "*exponent*" of the views and feelings of the St. Paul's river people?

Will you also inform us, whether since his arrival in Liberia he has been sufficiently patriotic to "muster"—if so, how often?

Yours for the present.

ENQUIRER.

For the Liberia Herald

No: 4.

Historical facts or the first reformers of Spain. Continued.

Ferdinand and Isabella.

The contention between the Christians and Moors of Spain was one for national liberty and independence. The security of these was followed in Spain as in other countries, by a struggle of the people for free institutions. These we find developing themselves at a very early period. The feudal system lost its hold there sooner than in many other countries of Europe. Municipal corporations speedily followed, and a representative government was established so early as the middle of the twelfth century, and the liberties of the people continued steadily to advance till near the close of the fourteenth century. About this period however, the victory begins to incline in a less favorable direction, though still only partially and not without occasional popular triumphs; while the proud aristocracy of Spain was gradually rising into power. Meanwhile the church was not slow to avail itself of the movements we have described. A corporate influence there too had been at work, numerous and opulent conventual institutions had sprung up and were acquiring a strength pregnant with fearful consequences for the future reign of superstition. From this time till the middle of the fifteenth century, the destiny of Spain seemed to hang in a balance. Commercial guilds still maintain their influence in some sections of the peninsula, Learning also found its patrons, and spread abroad its genial influences, and good and evil seemed to be contending on equal terms for predominance in the kingdoms into which Spain was divided. When in the year 1451 Isabella was born, the great princes of Castile, scarcely a year thereafter, occurred the birth of Ferdinand, a Royal Prince whose name is forever linked with hers, and whose glory is due to the union that made him share in the glories of her reign. * * * It is a stormy period of Spanish history on which they were cast, and many tempestuous scenes had to be passed through, and many a danger over come, many dangerous escapes, ere even the right of the future sovereigns should be acknolwedged.

Thus does an annalist of the events of the Princess Isabella, early career sketched some of the most important incidents, and depict the events under which a union was effected of the two chief kingdoms into which Spain was then divided.

Isabella's preferences were not consulted. She was made the puppet of State policy or royal caprice. One was the doomed to the arms of a man of as hateful character, and as low pretensions as any of that certain age—but the master of Calatrava died while journeying to receive his bride. Her example, when removed to the licentious court of her brother, remained spotlessly pure. The battle of Olmedo only protracted the civil struggle which now raged through the land. She however sought the protection of her brother. Alphonso, a youth worthy of the highest esteem and admiration.—He fell, most likely, by treacherous means into an untimely grave. It is then that she was tried, as was lady Jane Grey, by the confederates to accept the crown, but she solemnly refused maintaining that so long as Henry lived it could not be vacant. The Marquis de Villane, unlike the English Northumberland, could not prevail. The reward of loyalty and purity came at last. At Toras de Guisardo amidst a splendid convocation of the highest dignitaries of the realms. Henry embraced his sister, recognized her as his successor while shortly after the Cortes confirmed her title amidst the people's acclamation of approbation. She was now the rose and expectancy of that fair state. Many a suitor came, and the crook backed English Richard is supposed, though not by personal courtship, to have negotiated the important question from afar.

Her affections were fixed on Ferdinand. He was younger than herself, of comely features and proportions, addicted to many exercises, and endowed with many generous qualities. She also perceived the immense advantage of this union of kingdoms. The disposition in this case was mutual. Their people were of the same race and tongue. Their national character was of one mould. Mutual safety required the intermixture. But when she gave her consent to her yourthful admirer, when the articles of marriage had been signed, her cause of true love, like that of many humbler channels, ran not smooth. She escaped from espionage and durance to Valladolid. But where was Ferdinand? He must come as a bridegroom and king. Never had fortunes appeared so low. He was found at Saragossa. The frontier was watched by the enemies, ambuscades were set to surprise and intercept him. He set out travelling by night, *chiefly* on a mule or steer. He had but six attendants, and the better to preserve his disguise, whenever the party reached an inn he waited upon them—Princes do escape common accidents.

At one of these inns he left not a very well furnished praise behind. * * Reaching Osma where friends awaited him, they mistaking him—a Lombard discharged from the Rampart a heavy stone, which shot very near his head. How many and various are the dangers to which we all are continually exposed, the king, the noble the wise, the great and the beggar are equal in this respect; there are none exempted, after escaping many dangers, and overcoming many difficulties. This noble Prince the hope of two tottering kingdoms was near being at the first slain by one of his own people, what is life, what are high hopes, if they do not reach to the throne of God. But now all is safe, success only was reserved for him he was in his eighteenth year: she a year older. The expression of his countenance, according to the pictures of him is rather serious and down-cast, hers more animated, steady and serene. Their moral physiognomies however, are far more interesting and useful to study.

The happy couple were about equally poor. The exchequer of Arragon was exhausted, that of Castile was not at command. But on the morning of the 19th of October 1469; their nuptials were celebrated most publicly, if not magnificiently. A dispensation was necessary, as they were in the prohibited degrees of blood. This proved to be a forgery, but they were ignorant of it. When a true one was obtained some years afterwars, she learned for the first time the fraud that had been practised upon her, on the 11th of September, the day of her brother Henry placed the crown of Castile on the head of Isabella. The crown of Arragon has devolved on Ferdinand, and the limited rulers commenced a reign that placed their kingdom, at that period, foremost among the free nations of the world. Education was liberally encouraged. Chivalry found a wholesome stimulant under the genial influence of a female reign, that disciplined it to a more generous, and national course, while it deepened its intensity. The protracted Moorish wars had sufficed to secure the triumphs of arms &c. The influence of the blind dogmas of its superstitious chivalry were exhibited, at an earlier period, in a romantic incident connected with Scotish history.

Robert Bruce the renowned asserter of his country's or nations liberties, died without accomplishing a vow he had made, i. e. to take the pilgrims' staff, and as an humble pilgrim, to visit the holy sepulchre. His faithful follower however, undertook, at his dying request, to fulfil the letter of his vow by depositing his heart in the sepulchre at Jerusalem. And we catch among the romantic scenes of Spanish history, a glimpse of the famous Douglas as he turns a side in accordance with the superstitions of the time to bear the dumbless heart into the fields of Spain, where the infidel was contending most fiercely against the christian, resolved to wrest from him the lands he had over crossed. The fearless, the bold & intriped Douglas perished there, & buried the Scottish Monarch's heart, on the field of victory—But it was a very different spirit, from this which animated the court of Isabella, it had less of superstition, and more of refined gallantry, and undoubtedly its influence was favourable to the people. As they followed in the course of their national "arms," citadel after citadel was snatched from the Moores * * Granada was entered in triumph by the royal conquerors, the gorgeous halls of Alhambra were thrown open to them. The cross was reared on the Saracenic minaret, and the church bell rung forth its joyous peals from the towers that had been reared to call the moslem to prayers. Such were the conquering sovereigns for whom Columbus found a new world.

Now Spain was in her glory under Spanish rule, and the African foot steps were no longer heard in the halls, which he built on the Alhambra to be his dwellings and his home forever. The light of the sun at its meridian never smiled on the proud the noble the great as dead, in Spain nor the moons pale beams, light a path to guide the traveller home, nor sovereigns cherubs at their twilight gambols. The years of the first no longer afforded him the comforts of their balmy shade, and the land which he looked on as his own ceased to own him its lord. Such are the events of life. Such the results of war and such is man's fortune. And now view matters as they then stood, we would naturally led to predict for Spain great prosperity. An eye witness of the transactions

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