

wise rest upon your Majesty's career in life, your family, and your Government. In all humility, we are, your Majesty's most humble and obedient,

MEMBERS OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN BAVARIA.

[Signed by a large number of Bavarian Protestant Noblemen and Gentlemen.]

ADDRESS TO THE CORTES FROM THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

TO THE HONOURABLE CORTES OF THE SPANISH NATION.

Cortes! we greet you in the name of Him who said: "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another." (St. John xiii. 34.) You are men of a nation whose sons the grace of God blest with the most valuable temporal and spiritual gifts; over your paternal land God has made the sun to shine in glorious beauty—scattering light and blessing; and its name is written in the page of history in the indelible letters of great acts.

But to whatever extent we acknowledge the radiant name of the Spanish nation, truth compels us still to be faithful, for it is "hard to kick against the pricks." (Acts ix. 5.) And, therefore, we who reside in the East are constrained, in the name of humanity, to proffer counsel to you, and our Christian love compels us to unite with this counsel a warning of the great Day of Judgment; for it is written, "But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation." (St. Mark iii. 29.)

Cortes! in your midst are hearts whose thoughts accuse one another, when reviewing the severe Canonical Laws of Spain, which have marked your history with streams of blood. Men of honour, step forward and give the highest Lawgiver and Judge the honour of the loving Father in the Son. Our dear Redeemer, Jesus Christ, said: "If the Son, therefore, shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (St. John viii. 36.) And His Apostle said: "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." (Rom. viii. 2.)

Oh, let these sacred words flash like streaks of lightning which fall from heaven into your souls! Let them be to you as the Resurrection Angel, whose countenance, you know, was like lightning (St. Matthew xxviii. 3); and erase your law of death for the martyrs of faith.

Set free Matamoros, Alhama, and all who are now, for the convictions of truth, suffering martyr punishment. Truly you know not what you are doing to them! And if you consider them criminal,

banish them to the East—banish them beneath the Crescent; we beg you, from the depths of our hearts, do this.

Cortes! the above-mentioned martyrs are witnesses that the true knowledge of the Gospel and its power in Spain will never be done away with. Do not blind yourselves against such knowledge and such power of endurance. Oh, Cortes, you have it in your power to raise Spain higher than it ever stood, if you will but speak one word, but unanimously, as it becomes Spain—nobly and magnanimously—Religious Liberty!

The world considers you to be magnanimous. You are so. Therefore, let it re-echo through the world, Spain is regenerated!

Think of the joy produced in every zone if you declare, that for faith and conscience no one is henceforth to be punished, and if you seal this declaration with an act of mercy—the freedom of Matamoros and his fellow-condemned ones.

“O Land! Land! Land! hear the word of the Lord.” (Jer. xxii. 29.)

Bucharest, March 27—15, 1863.

[Signed by the Pastors and Churchwardens of the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations, as well as by the Agents and Missionaries of various British Religious Societies in the Danubian Principalities—Bucharest, Plojeshti, Piteshti, Galatz, Jassy, &c., &c.]

ADDRESS OF LADIES IN HOLLAND.

TO HER CATHOLIC MAJESTY, ISABELLA II., QUEEN OF SPAIN.

Madame,—May your Majesty kindly look on the liberty with which some Women in the Netherlands address themselves to you, presenting their profoundest respects; and, while they beg your Majesty to receive the assurance of their deepest regards, they ask permission to present a petition on behalf of some of your subjects, whose sufferings for the sake of conscience, in consequence of their perseverance in keeping their faith, has echoed painfully in the hearts of many near and distant, as among us too, and has not only awakened a lively interest and compassion, but even a strong desire to interfere, by beseeching your Majesty to put an end to their sufferings. In every part of the earth are prayers sent up to God for Matamoros, Alhama, Trigo, and their fellow-sufferers, as now we learn, with the utmost sorrow, the final sentence is proclaimed in Spain. We appeal to the clemency of your Majesty, beseeching you kindly to excuse this boldness, and not to close your heart to the voice of compassion which moved us when hearing of so great afflictions.

With one word merely your Majesty can, restoring them to life,

give them all that makes life valuable—viz., liberty, civil rights, restoration to their homes, and to the love and care of their families. And this one word, Mercy—this holy and much-valued privilege of sovereigns, trusted by God to the hands of your Majesty—is such an honourable and blessed privilege, that we do not hesitate to appeal to it with great confidence, convinced that your Majesty has only to take counsel with your heart in order to pronounce that word, and so to fulfil the fervent united wishes of so many hearts who are praying to God for their deliverance.

Directing this petition to your Majesty, we dare to affirm that it concerns some of your most faithful subjects, because in the letters which we have received from Matamoros we have found undeniable proofs of the deepest respect and constant attachment to your Majesty. His fellow-prisoners entertained the same feeling; because those who know how to sacrifice all their prospects upon earth to the holy precept, “Fear God,” cannot neglect the commandment of the Holy Scriptures so intimately connected with the same, “Honour the king.”

O Madame, it is not for public disturbers and criminals we ask your compassion; but it is for men who, once delivered, never will disturb the order and peace of your kingdom, but rather will cooperate to the maintenance of the laws, by a conscientious obedience to the will and commandment of their Lord, and their attachment to your Royal person, whose goodness they will bless, and over whose Queenly head they will daily ask the precious blessing of God.

But not only the prisoners and their relations—not only the poor mother of Matamoros, at present seriously ill, and bowed down by fear and sufferings—will bless the loyalty of your Majesty, but the echo of their praise will be heard everywhere; and where now prayers are sent up to God for their deliverance, there, we hope, hearts will melt together to thank God and the Queen of Spain, who, by her clemency, will rule over many hearts in her own kingdom, and abroad too, to ask God to pour out on her, and her Royal House, His most precious gifts for time and for eternity.

[The signatures of 45,000 Dutch Ladies from all parts of Holland, contained in two large volumes, were obtained in the short time of a week.]

PETITION OF ROMAN CATHOLICS IN HOLLAND.

TO HER CATHOLIC MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF SPAIN.

We, the undersigned, being Roman Catholic inhabitants of the Netherlands, have heard with grief that a Spanish subject of good family, once an officer in your Majesty's army, Don Manuel Matamoros, has been prosecuted before the tribunal of your Majesty's kingdom, and is condemned to eight years at the galleys, because,

abjuring the religion of his fathers, he passed over to the Protestant Church, and held religious meetings with those holding similar convictions.

Far removed as we are, it is certainly difficult to know accurately the facts, but this much we learn from the public papers and other publications, that Matamoros' life and conduct are free from any political plot, and that he is prosecuted only for religion's sake.

We all are truly devoted to our Roman Catholic Church; but even, therefore, we have the greater deference for any conscientious convictions. If Matamoros could voluntarily abandon his advantages of birth and profession, and remain firm to his opinions under a trying imprisonment and fearful sufferings, then to us it seems a strong proof of his true faithfulness.

Our social position may warrant your Majesty in believing that we certainly respect the laws of our own country as much as any persons can; and that in like manner we respect the laws of your Majesty's dominions. But residing in a country where the Protestant Church is in a majority, we have ample opportunity, from a comparison of former laws in the past history of the Dutch Republic and our present situation, to appreciate the beneficial operation of religious toleration, and we express our hope that the petitions imploring pardon for Matamoros laid at the foot of your Majesty's throne may touch your Royal mercy.

[Signed by fifteen Dutch Roman Catholics of high position, with their names and titles in full.]

PETITION FROM RUSSIA.

TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF SPAIN.

Grace and peace from God our Father and our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

May it please your Majesty,—The undersigned subjects of our well-beloved Lord and Emperor, Alexander II., present themselves with their prayer for grace and help for those of your Majesty's subjects who, holding a common faith with ours, have for that reason been sentenced to imprisonment for a number of years.

That which has been imputed to them as a crime is, indeed, but stedfastness in their religious convictions; and the same conscientious loyalty which they evince for their faith under sufferings and penalties is a sure pledge of the love and fidelity which they will show your Majesty when mercy shall have loosed their fetters. We pray to our Lord and Saviour that he may pour forth His mercy abundantly upon your Majesty, and that a reflection of His Glory, of His peace, of His clemency, and the forgiveness which he will grant to all the members of His Church, may flow from the hand of your Majesty down upon those of your subjects who, by the confession of a

religious conviction that does not agree in very point with that of the State religion, have drawn upon themselves persecution and punishment.

We unite in this our prayer, with the many thousands who, from various European lands, have resolved to lay their petitions at the foot of your Majesty's throne, and appealing to the now universally-prevailing principles of toleration and Christian charity in matters of faith, seek pardon for those who suffer only for this reason—that they apprehend the Gospel of God's decrees with reference to man's salvation, as found in Holy Scripture, in a mode varying from that confessed by the State Church.

The millions of Christian subjects comprehended within the distant boundaries of the Russian empire praise God for the freedom and toleration which they enjoy with reference to the confession of their faith. This freedom is in this empire equally secured to Roman Catholics and Protestants as it is to the members of the State Church, the Greek orthodox confession, many of whom have not hesitated to associate themselves in this our prayer with the most perfect readiness and devotion. And it is a freedom which serves the more surely to attach subjects to the throne with the firmest loyalty and devotion, since they can look to it to shelter and protect them in the enjoyment of this their choicest blessing, which unites them in constantly growing bonds of Christian love.

The Lord has promised that the day shall come when there shall be but one flock and one Shepherd, and He will bring it to pass in His own good time, when His sacred kingdom shall have come upon earth. In the meantime, however, He has commanded that Christians should exercise toleration and love towards each other. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we beg your Royal Majesty to exert the high prerogative which God has placed in your hands, of granting pardon to those of your subjects who are under condemnation for the confession of the Evangelical faith.

Should your Majesty lend a gracious ear to our prayer, your Majesty will act in obedience to the Divine will; and the Lord, who ever fulfils that which He has promised, will bless with streams of His Spirit the land where His honour dwells. The prayers of many of your Majesty's subjects, combined with those of all Christendom, will bring down the blessing of God upon your Majesty's head.

Wholly fixing our hope upon the unspeakable mercy of our God and Saviour, and upon the grace which descends from that mercy upon your Majesty, we indulge the anticipation that your Majesty will graciously grant our petition, for the sake of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; and may He, even the Lord, remember you in mercy for what your Majesty may do.

[Signed by a considerable number of Protestants of Russia, especially from the Baltic Provinces.]

ADDRESS FROM SWEDEN.

To Sweden, our distant country, the painful report has reached that some of your Majesty's subjects, whose only crime is to have read and circulated the Scriptures, and to have professed doctrines which we and a large part of Christendom regard as the most precious truths, have been sentenced by the Spanish Courts of Justice to the galleys and other penalties.

Moved by sympathy for these unhappy persons, and in obedience to the injunction of the Apostle, "Remember those who are in bonds, as bound with them" (Heb. xiii. 3), we, the undersigned, take the liberty, in deepest respect, to pray that your Royal Majesty would be pleased to use the prerogative vested in the hands of sovereigns, and pardon these men and remit their penalty. We believe ourselves to be the more authorised to present this humble petition, since the old law of our country, which punished with banishment conversion from our Church to that of Rome, has been abolished, and since, as it is in other Protestant countries, the sacred principle of religious liberty has been established by a Royal decree of October 23, 1860.

We approach the sympathising heart of your Majesty with the greater confidence, as the granting of our petition would be a true satisfaction to your Majesty, and remind your Majesty in future with joy of the day when one of the greatest and holiest prerogatives of Majesty was exercised.

With the deep conviction that what we humbly request of your Majesty is not only in full harmony with the common rights of men and with the Word of God, but also that nothing would advance more efficiently the happiness of Spain under your Majesty's sceptre, than that your subjects should have liberty to use without let and hindrance the sacred Word of God, and to follow its precepts as their example, we in full assurance place the petition in the hands of your Majesty, with the prayer to Almighty God, that He would grant to your Majesty grace and strength to take that resolution which would promote best His glory and the welfare of Spain. At the same time, invoking His temporal and eternal benedictions upon your Majesty, your Royal House, and the noble Spanish nation, we remain, your Majesty's most humble servants.

[Signed by about 1,000 persons, among whom 34 Noblemen (Members of the House of Nobles); a considerable number of Clergymen, headed by the Bishop of Gotenburg, Dr. Bjork; 84 members of the House of Commons; the principal Professors of the University of Upsala, with about 172 Undergraduates.]

PETITION FROM SWITZERLAND.

GENEVA, 7th May, 1863.

Madame,—In presenting to your Majesty, on the part of our co-religionists in Switzerland, this respectful petition in favour of certain Spaniards condemned to the galleys on account of their religion, we have no other introduction to your Majesty than the great name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the crucified. But we have thought that the simple title of worshippers of Jesus Christ would be of more value in the eyes of your Majesty than all those which worldly grandeur could bestow.

Let this, also, be our apology in venturing to implore your compassion for Matamoros and his companions in trouble; for we are not ignorant that the laws of the kingdom over which the Lord has placed your Majesty pronounce severe punishments on the persons even of the most virtuous who abandon the religion universally professed in Spain, in order to attach themselves to the Protestant faith. But we recall to mind, at the foot of your Majesty's throne, how the Gospel has declared that "mercy rejoiceth against judgment;" and we supplicate your Majesty, in the exercise of your Royal prerogative, to cause it to be so in this case, by making clemency prevail over the condemnation of the law.

When the Lord Jesus Christ was, on one occasion, asked by his Apostles to punish the people who repulsed him, he refused to do so, saying, "I am not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."

Your Majesty, who has received from this same Jesus, the King of kings, the sovereign authority which you exercise, will not permit that in the noble country of Spain honourable men should suffer for His sake, who, far from rejecting Jesus Christ, avow themselves, on the contrary, to be His friends. For indeed Matamoros and his fellow captives in Granada and Malaga are the devoted disciples of the Saviour, and are ready even, if it be needful, to lay down their lives for His name, in obedience to the precept proclaimed and practised by the Apostles, It is right to obey God rather than man.

The law forgotten everywhere for so long a time commends itself in our age alike to the conscience and the wisdom of the sovereigns of the different countries of Europe; who, while restricting themselves to the demand, "Render to Cesar the things that are Cesar's," no longer oppose themselves to their subjects in the free exercise of their right, according to their conscience, to "Render to God the things that are God's."

Your Majesty will also render your reign illustrious by giving religious liberty to your subjects, conformably with the will of the Most High. We beseech Him to incline the heart of your Majesty

to inaugurate this era of wise and peaceful liberty by throwing open the prison doors of your subjects of the Protestant communion, and by never again permitting men to be punished, as evildoers, who have no other wish than, after the command of the Apostle Peter, to "fear God and honour the King."

The subjects of your Majesty, restored to liberty and to their families by your Royal and voluntary clemency, will not alone bless your revered name, but in all the countries of the world where the press has made known the sad intelligence of their prosecution and condemnation to the galleys, persons without number, of all ranks and all communions, will hear with joy of their deliverance, and will render thanksgiving to God for your clemency and magnanimity, and encompass your Majesty and your Royal Family with their gratitude and their prayers.

We entreat your Majesty to deign to accept the homage of that profound respect with which we subscribe ourselves, Madame, your Majesty's very humble and very obedient servants,

In the name of a large number of our co-religionists of different Cantons of Switzerland, and especially of Berne, of Vaud, and of Geneva,

THE COMMITTEE
OF THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE OF GENEVA.

For the Committee.

J. ADRIEN NAVILLE, President.

EMILE DEMOLE HENTSCH, Vice-President.

C. O. VIGUET, Vice-President.

D. TISSOT, Secretary.

CH. GEISSENDORFF, Vice-Secretary.

ADOLPHE GAUTIER, Treasurer.

J. GOUDET, Advocate.

D. LENOIR.

** France, Prussia, and Denmark sent no Petition, but left it to their Deputies to state in person their concurrence.





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